

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th November 2022

Present: Gill Ainslie, Jim Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Robin Brown, David Chaplin, Rachel Daniels, Chris Gibson, David Gill (Zoom), Paul Hesketh, Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Teresa Rose, Russell Scates, Sue Scotchmere, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker.

Apologies: Gill Crisp, Chris Yule.

Revd Marion opened with prayer. Tim Oxbrow (Lay Vice-Chair) chaired the meeting.

22.55 The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 29th September 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

The Minutes of the Standing Committee held 10th November 2022 by email about the Replacement of the Parish Room Fixed Electric Heaters were approved and signed.

22.56 Correspondence

- From Diocese with guidance on planting of trees for Queen's Green Canopy. (2 have been requested from the Bishop but not yet received).
- Thanks from FIND for £300 cheque for the Rough Sleeper account (from Platinum Jubilee events) and for harvest contributions.
- Emails received by Ruth Silburn from people in the parish recording their appreciation for the Beacon of Love floodlighting scheme, for the care given to maintaining the churchyard and its wildlife and for the *Outlook* magazine.

22.57 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising

- Energy Audit took place, aided by Bob Mellor; now awaiting report.
- Contactless Giving connection with mobile router free period ended, now using Sim with Daisy Communications at cost of £4 per month; thanks to Hilary for getting it to work after so many problems.

b) Income September - October 2022

- Appeals responses: Nil.
- Donations: £1,300 from Lunch Club to pay for Hall water heater; £571 from Sunday School for their RTU Fund; £500 from Toddler Group, £300 from Lunch Club, and £120 from M.U. for use of Hall; £500 from Leveridge family; £388 from SHCT Ride & Stride; £88 from on-line giving, of which £66 via contactless terminal; £50 from Hubbard family.
- Events: £341 from quiz for Organ Maintenance Fund, £182 from Coffee Morning.
- Other: £130 from sale of scrap metal by Bob and Kevin.

c) Payments schedule September - October 2022

Excess copying charge likely to be repeated again for last quarter of 2022; Energy Audit fee has had £200 discount applied; £300 share of Platinum Jubilee 'profit' paid to FIND Rough Sleepers; Vicarage phone charge now settled at £26 per month.

d) Income & Expenditure to 31/10/22

- Deficit increased by £900 over 2 months due to Interregnum costs, but £10K of extra donations received and no Organist's salary paid out.

- Income: total of 4 main giving categories nearly £3K down from last year, and over £10K lower than 2019, reflecting loss of congregation; Hall Hire nearly back to pre-Covid levels; Investment income will now improve with increased interest rates..
 - Expenditure: costs still under control; Parish Share accounts for 80%.
- e) Funds Schedule @ 31/10/22
- Reserves remain healthy, but only a third are readily available (Designated Funds).
 - PCC will need to consider how to fund 2022 Deficit.
- f) 2022 Forecast
- Deficit likely about £4k, unless additional funds appear.
- g) 2023 Initial Budget
- While Income steady and expenditure higher, Deficit estimated £10k; Treasurer will seek to refine these initial estimates and will be consulting as usual.
- h) Other
- The question of obtaining multiple quotes for costs over a certain level and possibility of developing a PCC policy to be discussed at a future meeting.

22.58 Youth & Families' Worker contract

Penny's contract ends at the end of November and she is happy for it to be renewed. She often works more than her contracted 40 hours per month, although it varies between term-time and holiday periods. It is proposed that the contract is renewed for 3 years, her salary is increased to £6,000 *p.a.* to reflect the hours she actually works and that the period of notice is changed to 1 month on her part, and 3 months on the part of the PCC. **The PCC agreed unanimously.**

22.59 Fees and salaries for 2023

Parochial fees: The Treasurer explained the proposed fees, some of which are set by the Archbishops' Council and some by the PCC. The heating fee is slightly higher to reflect fuel costs and *Outlook* fees were approved at a previous meeting.

Hall hire fees for regular users: A briefing paper had been circulated. It was proposed to 'nudge' these rates up by £5 per session from 01.01.2023, with a review when we know what a new gas contract will cost in 12 months' time.

The PCC agreed the proposed fees unanimously.

22.60 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The PCC is asked to approve the appointment of Sandy Lloyd as Independent Examiner.

The PCC agreed unanimously.

22.61 Declaration of Members' Benefits

The Treasurer reminded PCC members of the statement in the Annual Report and Accounts and asked them to inform him if they have anything to declare.

22.62 Vacancy matters

The Parish Reps thanked everyone involved in any way with the interview process and the PCC wished to record thanks to Margaret and Jim for all their hard work.

22.63 Music matters

A paper had been circulated previously. Mary and Rachel have agreed to continue the Friends scheme in a reduced form and plans for a series of concerts in the spring are in hand. Simon Clark continues to work with the organ pupil (Patrick).

The PCC agreed

- a letter could be sent to member outlining the reduced scheme; it is hoped most people will continue their subscription.
- Patrick is asked if he would play at the church at some time during the Christmas period

22.64 Updates:

Health & Safety: regular tests and checks are up-to-date.

Safeguarding: there are no safeguarding concerns. Sunday 20th is Safeguarding Sunday and a special prayer will be used in intercessions. From January 2023 DBS checks will only last 3 years instead of 5, and some of us will be affected. Please remember to use permission slips (kept in blue Statutory Notices folders) if photographs are taken at services or events. Bob B. will be organizing some face-to-face safeguarding training, possibly in January.

22.65 Churchwarden's report

- Thanks to all Open Door volunteers and to Marion for organizing the rota; to all running the Christianity Explored course; to all who keep our regular events running and flourishing; to the wardens organizing funerals, burials, weddings and services and answering the vicarage phone.
- The upgrade of the parish room will be finished at the end of this month; please consider using it for meetings and small groups, as it will be cheaper to heat and not compete with paying bookings of the hall; please check bookings with Teresa.
- The circulation pump has failed and there will be no church heating for a while.
- During the vacancy we are relying on the goodwill of retired clergy and Marion, for which we are extremely grateful. Please support services, especially Thursday 10am and t@4.

27.66 Panel reports

Social panel: Don't forget the 1st December St Andrew's Day fish and chip supper.

27.67 Church events

26th Nov. Prayer Breakfast in parish room (because of RTU sale)
27th Nov. Christianity Explored away day.
Joint service at St Andrew's, 6.30pm, with Bob Hamilton
26th/27th RTU sale
1st Dec. Patronal festival, 6 for 6.30pm
3rd Dec. Advent event
18th Dec. 4pm - t@4
6pm - Carol Service

(Details of all Christmas services are in *Outlook* and on the website)

19th Feb. Wedding Songs of Praise

22.68 Any other business

- Beacon of Love: there has been a good response. Ruth asked if the floodlighting could be improved from last year to make it more special. Paul offered to look into alternatives.
- Lighting in church: the area near the piano is quite gloomy making it difficult for the choir to see. The lights have not been replaced with LED bulb and this will be investigated.

- South Door: Hard to open and sometimes people think it's locked. Tim pointed out it warps in winter; he suggested just pulling it to and not engaging the latch (unless it is very windy!)
- Prayer tree: On hold until the new incumbent arrives
- Sound system: no progress
- Wi-fi: Details of quotes still being checked
- Should we consider not having AOB on the agenda so we always know in advance what will be discussed to save time?
- Provisional dates of PCC meetings in 2023:

January 19 th	March 2 nd	March 23 rd *(APCM)	May 18 th
July 20 th	Sept. 21 st	Nov. 16 th	

The meeting closed with the grace at 9pm.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 19th January 2023