

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th September 2022 in the church hall and on Zoom

Present: Gill Ainslie, Jim Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Robin Brown, David Chaplin, Gill Crisp, Rachel Daniels, Chris Gibson (Zoom), 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: Chris Yule.

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

22.44 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 28th July 2022: item 22.38 d was amended from 'nearly 3k lower than' to 'nearly 3k greater than' and the minutes were approved and signed by Tim Oxbrow as a true record.

Minutes of 2 Standing Committees of 10th August 2022 by email were approved and signed:

- To increase *Outlook* advertising rates from £40 to £60 p.a. for a single advert and from £75 to £120 for a double, with immediate effect for new advertisers and from 2023 for existing advertisers who have already paid to the end of the year.
- To reduce the hall hire charges for the RSPB to £50 per meeting for the next 4 meetings, and to review the situation later in the year.

Matters Arising from the PCC meeting of 28th July 2022

22.32: Following a meeting with Ruth Silburn, Cathy Smith (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) produced a report on our churchyard including a site survey, recommendations for future action and a resource list,

It was proposed and **the PCC agreed** that Ruth and the Monday Working Party would identify a suitable tree to plant and that the Youth Group and WP would construct a hedgehog house. A plaque would be made for the tree. Thanks to Ruth for her work on this.

22.38: £300 surplus from Platinum Jubilee to be donated to FIND; Paul Hesketh to put it in writing to the Treasurer.

22.42: Children's harvest event didn't happen

22.43: Stained glass window: the matter is still with the Archdeacon. Denise Hibbert has been informed.

22.45 Correspondence

- Letter of thanks from Selig Suffolk for donation of £423.60 raised at quiz
- Email from Rev. Andrew Fitzgerald, Colchester Road Baptist Church about information evening on 11th October for Hope Into Action project

22.46 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising

- Energy Audit survey 9th November.
- Review of Hall hire charges for regular users ongoing.

b) Income July-August 2022

- Appeals responses: £250.
- Donations: £2,000 legacy from Arthur Nicholls' estate, split between Fabric and Organ funds; £2,000 from anonymous donor, currently for general funds; £300 from Lunch Club; £100 from Ian White for Churchyard fund (for care of wife's grave); £56 from on-line giving, of which £55 via contactless terminal.
- Roof Appeal: £9,250 from LPOW Vat reclaim (part of £9,600 total reclaim).
- Events: £515 from Fish & Chip evening (less £275 expenses) half proceeds going to RTU; £450 from Quiz (less £30 expenses) proceeds going to Selig (Suffolk) Trust; £100 from Coffee Morning.
- Other: £425 from Ecclesiastical for window repair claim, to Fabric Restricted.

c) Payments schedule July-August 2022

- Revd Foste'sr expenses included £400 for on-line services.
- Roof repairs: 'Retention' invoices still to be paid 6 months after completion.
- Vicarage phone: BT was overcharging – now have a new package at £10 per month less.

d) Income & expenditure to 31/08/22

- Deficit of £363 flattered by £6k of unexpected donations and £3.2k not paid for Organist, without which Deficit would be £9.5k, *i.e.* £3.5k worse than 2021.
- Income: both Planned Giving categories are down c. £1.5k from last year; total of all 4 Giving categories down £2k from 2021, and down £8k from 2019.
- Expenditure: all categories down against 2019 except Parish Share, Insurance and Youth Worker; we are yet to buy any Boiler fuel!
Interregnum costs are now shown separately.

The importance of increasing regular income was once again highlighted.

e) Funds schedule @ 31/08/22

Due to 3 legacies of £1k, the addition of Toddler Group funds, and 2022 Roof grants exceeding project costs by £12.5k, the overall level of Funds have improved by £12.5 to £152k. Reserves are looking healthy, but most are Restricted.

f) Other

- A Nest pension fund has been set up for Penny Braybrooke with assistance from our Payroll Manager; the PCC as an employer does not have to contribute
- Some purchases are not going through PCC books: although this is a generous gesture, anyone making purchases for the church should claim the money, even if they then donate it back to the church.
- We have made excess colour photocopies recently, leading to a surcharge. Please think carefully before making colour copies, which are 5p + vat against 0.5p + vat

22.47 Vacancy Matters

Thanks to all who contributed to the Parish Profile and especially David Chaplin for working with the Designer. An outline programme for the interviews has been drawn up, including an evening meal for PCC members and spouses to meet the candidates on Tuesday 11th; offers of help with refreshments to Jim please.

Weds. 12th – service at 8.30 am open to all, followed by refreshments, for congregation to meet candidates.

Programme will be circulated when finalized.

22.48 Warm Spaces Scheme

Tim tabled a paper on the Together for Ipswich 'Warm Spaces' scheme and discussion followed on whether we could offer this in conjunction with 'The Open Door', using the parish room with the addition of a temporary/removable clear acrylic door and possible installing night storage heaters for economy. Use of the church hall was also discussed, but limited availability, the need for extra volunteers and the greater cost of heating the hall were an issue. Sue Scotchmere mentioned the Dumbarton Road Warm Welcome scheme. **The PCC agreed** that for the time being we could get involved with that rather than starting anything new ourselves (speak to Sue. S. if interested), and also that a temporary acrylic door be installed in the parish room (Ken Odam can do this for c.£180). This would provide a warm place for The Open Door volunteers to retreat to and also to invite visitors if they felt comfortable doing so. Bob Batchelor will consider the safeguarding/safety aspects of using the parish room and thought will be given to restarting the Games Afternoon.

22.49 The future of Friends of Rushmere Organ

A paper outlining the background and operation of the scheme had been circulated and the PCC was asked to identify one or more people willing to take on Rushmere's Friends' scheme from January 2023 if it wishes this to continue. Otherwise members will be contacted so they can cancel any future payment on the basis that we can no longer meet our obligations to them under the terms of the Friends' scheme. The feeling was it would be a shame to let the scheme fold, and Rachel Daniels and Mary Odam agreed to look for a possible organiser. A final decision on the scheme will be made at the next PCC meeting.

22.5 Updates

- Health and Safety: from Sunday 11th Sept. the church reverted to the pre-Covid Risk Assessment V2 with a few amendments. Holy Communion will be administered by Priest intincture, ventilation and heating will depend on circumstances and Covid signs removed, although masks and gel still available.
- Safeguarding: 2 recent incidents of challenging/difficult behaviour by visitors at the Open Door. People are reminded to read the Lone Working policy (In the blue Statutory Notices folders), keep safe, and leave the church or call the police if necessary.

22.51 Churchwardens' report

Nothing particular to report. Thanks to everyone involved in any way in the services during the mourning period for Her Majesty the Queen, for Open Door volunteer and all other volunteers.

22.52 Panel Reports

Youth Panel: Ali Byard has resigned from her role as Sunday School leader, and Paul Hesketh is stepping in. The YP will mark the occasion, on behalf of the PCC.

Children's book bags now ready – pegs to be put along the bottom of the noticeboard in the children's area of church.

The number of children attending Sunday School is dwindling, and we need to get more children and families involved.

Social Panel: **the PCC agreed** the Beacon of Love could be done again this year, with better publicity but the same lighting

Pastoral Panel: The group is working on the new Church Directory

Growth Panel: A Christianity Explored course will run for 7 weeks from 14th October. The next Zoom Bible Study Course starts on 18th October, on the theme of Faith, Hope and Love

22.53 Church events

10th September: Fish & chip supper and talk; successful and brought in some local people

24th September: Prayer breakfast – 9 people attended

2nd October: Harvest Festival and Shared Lunch

15th October: Coffee morning

22nd October: Quiz and Prayer Breakfast

31st October: Light Party

22.54 Any other business

- Time capsule: Paul Hesketh suggested burying a time capsule when the new tree is planted. Tim Will look into that
- Wi-fi: David Chaplin is getting quotes
- Real Advent Calendars: Margaret Mellor will order as usual

The meeting closed with the grace at 9.25pm.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 17th November 2022.