

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2023

Present: Revd Alan Comfort, Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, David Chaplin, Rachel Daniels, Claire Driver, Chris Gibson, Margaret Mellor, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Teresa Rose, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker.

Apologies: Gill Ainslie, Robin Brown, David Gill, Mary Odam, Chris Yule.

Revd Alan opened the meeting with prayer.

23.24 Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 2nd March 2023 were approved and signed.

Minutes of the Standing Committee of 8th March 2023 on the replacement of the soakaways on the north side of the church were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

23.25 Correspondence

- Notes of thanks from Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam and Revd Marion for the gifts presented at the March PCC meeting
- Letter of thanks from the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance for the donation of £138 raised at the Rum Olde Boys sea shanty evening
- Email from A Rocha UK requesting an annual donation to support their Eco Church work. **The PCC agreed** to a donation of £50, to come from the Churchyard Fund

23.26 Vicar's items

Revd Alan thanked everyone for the warm welcome he and Jill had received, and commented on the organisation, commitment and contributions of so many people to the life of the church. He invited discussion of our hopes and expectations for how the church might develop in the future, and encouraged us to think about these things in preparation for the Away Day on 13th May.

23.27 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising: Electricity costs have risen, and the annual increase is likely to be £300-£400 – offset for the next couple of years by the Deanery grant of £1,000. Boiler fuel has been changed to kerosene, combined with a cheaper supplier, meaning a saving of £800-£1,000 p.a.

b) Income March-April 2023: Income from various events and donations were highlighted, including including the final part of Lorna Anderson's extremely generous bequest (restricted to Fabric) and further anonymous gifts in the wallsafe.

c) Payments schedule March-April 2023: A heavy 2 months of expenditure, including work on the Vicarage, increased DD to Scottish Power, switch of Vicarage and Lobby phones from BT to Vodafone, excess photocopying charge, service of Hall water heater. Final payment has been made for organ teaching for the time being.

d) Income & Expenditure account to 30/4/23: Income up 9%, expenditure up 15%, Deficit up, but lower than budgetted. Parish Share has increased by 6.5% - accounts for 75% of our annual costs.

e) Funds schedule @ 30/4/23: overall Funds are down by £3,676. Fabric Fund includes £500 from the Parish Council towards churchyard lighting. £1,067 raised by Sunday School has been sent to RTU.

f) Other:

- **the PCC agreed** a further £20K to be put on deposit, with 2/3 of the interest accruing to general reserves and 1/3 to the Youth Fund.
- The photocopier contract ends mid-June and **the PCC agreed** that the Standing Committee could make a decision on renewal.
- 3 year Gas contract ends in November – Treasurer will look for alternatives

23.28 Appointment of Sidesmen and women

The following were **approved by the PCC** and appointed for 2023-4: Gill and Jim Ainslie, Joan and Bob Batchelor, Kevin Brazier, Rachel Daniels, Dianne Davey, Joan and David du Boulay, Graham and Lorraine Leach, Meg Mateer, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Sue Scotchmere, Gloria Woolner.

Appointment of a Server: Kevin Brazier was **approved by the PCC** as a Server.

23.29 Updates:

Health & Safety:

- 4-yearly professional test and inspection of lightning conductors due April/May; very few providers of this service so unable to get 3 quotes. **The PCC agreed** to accept a quote of c.£150 from JW Gray.
- 5-yearly fixed electrical installation certification and report (EICR) also due; 2 quotes of £950 and £1,000 +VAT received and a third in hand. **The PCC approved** the expenditure when the wardens had selected the best quote.

Safeguarding:

- An issue which arose recently has been satisfactorily resolved.
- Information on required training for PCC members and Churchwardens was circulated. Bob has already contacted PCC members who need to update their training; some have now done so, but several are still outstanding. Training can be done online at home or Bob will arrange a group session in the church hall for people to bring their own computer and use our wi-fi; please let Bob know if you are interested in doing this.

Training website: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> Details of how to register available from Bob or Hilary.

- David Chaplin is setting up parental controls on the wi-fi.

Eco-Plan:

- Continuing Phase 1: outside lighting being replaced with movement sensor LED lights, using own labour, and the floodlights are now LED. Replacement of internal lighting (costing c. £2.5k) being delayed until after EICR (see above) in case extensive modernization of church wiring required.
- 4th June is Environment Sunday – to be used to promote our Eco Plan, and Ruth would like to hand out Personal Lifestyle Audit form to congregation
- Ruth will be working with Youth Group on a wildlife survey as part of Churches Count on Nature Week, during 3rd to 11th June.
- The Suffolk Wildlife Trust mowing plan is now being implemented in the churchyard, with signs explaining why some areas are being left uncut .

- 2 dead trees have been replaced, one of which is our Platinum Jubilee Tree, and a plaque is now in place. There is one tree faculty left for the churchyard, probably to be used for the Bishop's Coronation Tree
- We now have 2 twinned toilets
- The church has registered for the Gold Eco Church award

23.30 Churchwardens' report

- Thanks to all who contributed to the Licensing service, the Parish Council Coronation event, the Coronation Party and the bring-and-share lunch.
- Special thanks to Russell Scates and Bob Mellor for help with the painting and Bob and Kevin for various other jobs at the Vicarage.
- Thanks to the Monday team for all the work they do that saves the church a considerable sum of money. Their work was commented on by the Church Architect when carrying out the Quinquennial inspection.
- The final part of the north roof project – the replacement of two soakaways at a cost of £10,760 - was completed in April and all costs were met by grant money.
- We were asked to define the churchyard north boundary, and this has been agreed and accepted by the Parish Council. Correspondence, details and a plan are on file.

Thanks were recorded to Tim for all his work over the last few years as Churchwarden.

23.31 Panel reports

Reports were received from the Social and Youth Panels. There were no matters arising.

23.32 Church events

March

- 3rd - Scout group visited to do their Faith Badge. A very worthwhile activity and the children learned a lot.
- 26th - Rugby Club use of car park – less chaotic than last year but stewards arrived late. Perhaps suggest the event starts earlier next year.

April

- 29th - Parish Council Coronation event in church, hall and grounds – very successful and good to see so many people visiting. Such collaboration to be encouraged. Thanks to all from St Andrew's who helped out.

May

- 6th - Coronation Party – very well received, and thanks to Tricia Tyler, Mary Odam and all who contributed
- 7th - bring-and-share lunch – thanks to all who brought and shared.

Future events:

May

13th - Parish Away Day at Rushmere Baptist Church

18th - Ascension Day service, 7.30pm

21st - t@4

27th - Prayer breakfast

28th - United Service at Woodbridge Road Salvation Army Citadel

June

3rd - Blackwood Clarinets Concert

7th - Archdeacon's Visitation, St Helen's Church

- 10th - Deanery Conference at St Augustine's Church
- 10th - Ipswich Chamber Choir Concert
- 17th - Recorder Concert
- 19th - Visit of Father Arockiaraj from RTU? (Revd Alan, Ruth and Rachel to discuss)
- 24th - Prayer breakfast

July

- 15th - Coffee morning
- 20th - PCC meeting
- 22nd - St Andrew's Fun Day
- 29th - Quiz

23.33 Any other business

- Defibrillator: there are 2 within 2 miles of the church, so no grants available for a publicly available one. Tim to get figures and pass to Teresa.
- Contactless giving: could we have another machine at new end of church now we have wi-fi? Kevin and David Chaplin to discuss.
- *It's your move* booklets have been purchased to give to children leaving Rushmere Hall Primary School this summer. Margaret Mellor to talk to Penny Braybrooke about presentation labels.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm with prayers led by Revd Marion.

The date of the next PCC Meeting is Thursday 20th July 2023.