



St. George's Church, Wilton
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council
 Wednesday 19th October 2022

Present: Nick Griffin (Chair), Michael Yardley (Vice Chair), Peter Joyce, Hilary Mckegney, Ian Pinder (Treasurer), Matt Norman, Paul Cole, Brian Underwood, Mary Carson and Helen Clegg (PCC Secretary)

1. Nick opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Apologies:** Bethan Baigent, Chris Michell
3. The minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

a) Church bells

Peter has spoken with the bell ringing team. He and they were happy with the safety arrangements and they call on Mike Hansford from Bishop's Lydeard when they need advice.

b) Hearing Loop and Amplifier

This was installed in the church on 13 June 2022. The system is much better although some people still have problems hearing. The system can be tested by Peter and it will be.

The firm who did the work have now looked at the Hall too and we are waiting for a quote for a Loop system in the main room in the Hall and a portable system which could be used in other parts of the building.

Items for Information

5. Financial Report *Ian Pinder*

Prior to the meeting Ian had circulated, by email, a financial report and an income and expenditure account for the 9 months to 30 September 2022. Ian's calculation of the increase in Christian Giving was 5.9%, but the sums could be done another way to show a higher figure. Nevertheless the increase appeared to be lower than the growth in church attendance and he was concerned that if the Parish Share

goes up next year, due to our higher church membership, we would struggle to pay it.

It was agreed that a concerted effort was required to improve membership of the CG scheme and that the congregation needed more information about how church finances worked, with particular emphasis on where the money goes.

The principle of whether we should continue to give away all our weekly collections was discussed. The majority of the PCC favoured continuing with the current practice but in order to check whether our views were representative, it was agreed that each member of the PCC would ask 3 other members of the congregation for their views. **Action ALL PCC MEMBERS**

Hall rental income has improved but is still well below the income levels seen 10 years ago. It was acknowledged that Covid had had an effect and there is a lot of competition. It was felt that a working group, to see how the advertising and booking system could be improved, was needed. **Action Nick/Wardens**
It was agreed that the Parish Share should be paid in full this year even though it could mean reducing our reserves or using part of Brian Underwood's generous legacy.

6. Vicar's Update

This had been circulated prior to the meeting to save time and it was welcomed by the PCC members.

7. Health & Safety

The potholes in the car park haven't been dealt with yet.

Peter is looking at replacing the patch of carpet in the entrance lobby to the Church.

The boiler servicing has been done and the Hall boiler needs some minor work which is in hand.

There has now been a significant accident at the vicarage/office entrance when a parishioner tripped on the steps. Nick noted that the steps are very steep and shallow, that the door frame has multiple tripping points and that one to let go of the handrail before you can enter the building. There was another 'near miss' on the day of the meeting.

8. Safeguarding

Liz Flower has indicated she would like to step down from this role. Nick has found that we should be using Safer Recruitment which requires:-

A job description for a volunteer role

An application form

Shortlisting

An interview

References

A declaration to be signed by the successful applicant.

This applies to all roles where there is contact with children or “vulnerable” adults. It would apply to the Tuk tuk team, Bellringers, Home Group leaders.

Hilary assured us that the Pastoral Visitors are already applying this and Safeguarding is discussed regularly at their meetings. Information is available on the Diocesan web-site.

Items for Discussion and Approval

9. Proposed building projects

Paul Cole outlined 3 projects, namely: the reorganisation of the office and its entrance; hall updating and improvements with mezzanine floor; and the church reorganisation with a toilet and servery and the removal of the pews with associated works. It was agreed that the office was the most urgent and the one where the plans were most advanced. Paul had put the works out to tender (with expected total costs in the region of £25K) and once he had prices he would press the Diocese to see how much they would fund.

At that stage a short appeal could be launched to raise the balance of the money. It was proposed by Hilary McKegney, that the Vicarage and Office entrances project should be the first priority. Seconded by Pete Underwood and passed unanimously.

The other two projects were longer term and it was agreed that they should be part of one appeal at the appropriate time but that the congregation needed to be brought into the planning process and should be made aware of the ideas as part of the appeal for funding the office alterations.

On the bigger projects advice would be sought from people who were involved in the major fundraising appeal for Trull church a few years ago.

Nick needs support developing the communication plan. A group was suggested and Paul Cole and Peter Joyce offered to support.

Distribution of Communion

PCC members had been asked to ask people in the congregations if they wished to move back to the Shared Cup or to continue as we were at present.

The general consensus was that people did want to go back to the Shared Cup but not yet.

The meeting was closed with the grace.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 17th January 2023.

Signed :(Chairman)

Date :