

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 5th September 2022

Prayers Barry Milner

- 1 Present:** Allan Boddy, Norman Barr, Ken Dale, Rosemary Ellen, Jackie Hird, Martin Hird, Kevin Keefe, Maggie Lolashvili, Barry Milner, Glynis Milner, Tony Pike, John Simkins and Zoe Smith

Apologies: Jenny Liston

There were no declarations of interest with any matters on the agenda.

2 Minutes of PCC Meeting 11th July

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by KK, seconded by BM and unanimously agreed.

3 Matters Arising

AB reported that Jenny has now approached all groups regarding safeguarding and that they are now putting appropriate measures in place. Many of the PCC have done the domestic abuse online course and MH said that it was most helpful.

4 Safeguarding

No further matters

5 Ministry, Mission and Communication

Induction of Aaron Kennedy, arrangements and welcome lunch – The service on the 24th September will be conducted by Bishop Nick Baines, there is a prescribed format for the service. The Diocese will plan the service and invites have been sent out to the mayor, local councillors and church leaders. R.S.V.Ps are sent to the church office. AB thanked JH for her organisation of the lunch to be held afterwards.

Ringling of the church bells for weddings - a letter had been circulated prior to the meeting. This requested that the fees for weddings be increased to £300, JS proposed accepting this, seconded by MH and unanimously agreed

6 Financial report

6.1 Finance report to 31st July. This had been circulated prior to the meeting. TP explained that income and expenditure were both slightly below budget. However the gas meter for the church building has not been sending readings since November so approximately £3,500 is owed. The Smart meter will be sorted but in the meantime readings can be submitted on line. TP said that financially we should be grateful for our position. NB expressed his thanks to TP for his open approach to the congregation regarding finances.

6.2 Designation of one- off gift and a legacy to the Fabric Fund (£10,000.) A large gift of £5,000 (plus gift aid) had been received during August and a further £5,000 had been gifted from the estate of the late Mari Biss by her children. In view of its one-off nature and the current surplus in the general fund, it was agreed to transfer the legacy money to the designated Fabric Fund. Use of the one-off gift will be reviewed later in the year when the outlook for gas and electricity costs is clearer.

6.3 Use of Hindle Fund for one off purchases. KD suggested buying a large screen tv for the Parish room instead of a screen. BM proposed accepting this idea, seconded by KK and unanimously agreed. It was agreed to find this and the purchase of a new laptop and iPad for Sunday Club use from the Hindle Fund.

6.4 Distribution of Covid Fund (£625) TP said that it needs to be considered how best to use it in line with the intention of the gift to help those affected financially by Covid, since it seemed unlikely that the money would now be used in that way. It was discussed whether it could be used for those affected by the fuel crisis but this was fraught with problems in deciding who could be helped. A further possibility was that the new vicar, Aaron Kennedy could use it as he deemed suitable. A policy would be needed to cover this form of distribution. It was agreed to re-consider this at a future meeting.

6.5 Auditors. TP said that our former independent examiner, Claire Welling had left WYCAS so a new person will be assigned.

6.6 Renewal of gas and electricity contracts. The current contracts for gas and electricity supply in the church and the Chestnuts are due for renewal at the end of October. Prices for both gas and electricity have risen sharply as a result of the conflict in Ukraine and only indicative quotes, valid for 24 hours, are available. Quotes obtained from our current supplier, Total, suggested that costs could rise by up to 10 times, resulting in a total energy bill for the next year of £75,000. Parish Buying had provided an alternative quote, which was even higher. While the church could afford this level of cost for a year or two, it was clearly unsustainable in the longer term. There was much discussion around the subject due to the fluctuations of energy prices and potential government support. As there is still time before renewal it was felt that prices over at least the next couple of weeks could be observed. The final decision will be passed to the Standing Committee as whether to enter a new fixed rate for a year or a variable price contract which could be swapped to a fixed rate at a later date.

Another group, KD,TP,NB and JH will look at innovative ways of reducing our energy costs. An energy monitor in the boiler room indicated that we could reduce electricity usage by 25% by varying the way the church is lit.

It was agreed that there would need to be a significant discussion about energy usage and how we address the current issue at the next PCC meeting.

7 Properties

7.1 Health and Safety – no issues

7.2 List of works A survey of the Chestnuts has been completed. Houldsworths have completed plastering in various places around church.

8 Heritage Area

AB reported that hopefully David Whitty will be able to come this week before Heritage weekend to repair the lighting. If not AB will switch the lighting off in both cases.

9 Youth work

ZS said that timings were difficult to work out to coincide with services as it was not always possible to know how much time Sunday Club would have and also how many children there would be.

10 Other reports

10.1 Foundation Governors of All Saints School – no report

10.2 Communication Group – no report

10.3 Local to Global – AB had spoken to Georgina who is no longer in charge so the group is moribund at the moment

10.4 Sustainability- Dave Cherry is to be asked if there is a possible successor for the group. KD will lead the environmental side, in church energy usage there is a 5 Steps to a Carbon net O plan.

10.5 Pastoral Group – no report

10.6 Prayer Team – JS said that he tries to keep displays topical so that there is a change of material. In future Churches Together will be on the agenda.

11 Future Events

12 Any Other Business

Stockeld Park are supplying 44 trees for the Christmas Tree Festival.

The welcome lunch for Rev Aaron Kennedy is October 9th

Prayers at next meeting Rev Aaron Kennedy or BM

14 Date of next meeting

October 17th

Closing prayers JS