

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

Minutes of PCC Meeting Monday 17th October 2022

Prayers Reverend Aaron Kennedy

- 1 Present:** Allan Boddy, Norman Barr, Ken Dale, Rosemary Ellen, Jackie Hird, Martin Hird, Kevin Keefe, Rev. Aaron Kennedy, 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 5th September

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

3 Matters Arising

Use of Hindle Fund – Tony confirmed that a new laptop and iPad had been bought. KD is to progress the purchasing of a large screen for the parish room. AB reported that translators for school have been bought and worked well in some settings but not always in others.

Correction from September's Minutes 10.4 should read '6 Steps to a Carbon net O plan' not 5 steps.

4 Safeguarding

JL had sent a report. She has been in contact with all groups, and unless a group is set up for 'vulnerable' adults leaders do not need DBS checks. Childrens' groups are different because children are classed as vulnerable and leaders do need DBS checks. Jenny will experiment with group safeguarding training with the bell ringers. NB remarked that the domestic abuse training was very well done and most informative.

5 Finance

5.1 Financial report to 30th September had been circulated prior to the meeting. AB thanked Tony for his detailed report. MH said that in comparison to some other churches our regular giving is holding up. Total spending is now slightly over budget. The proposed budget for 2022 anticipated a monthly deficit of c£700, so the underlying budget for the first half of the year is better than budgeted. For next year energy costs will be higher and also the parish share will rise more than the average. We will face significant challenges if we are to meet our regular costs from our annual income.

5.2 Annual renewal of insurance policies for the Church and the Chestnuts. The insurance for church has increased by 12.5% and for the Chestnuts by 12.6%. These policies will be locked in for the next 3 years. This excludes insurance against cyber fraud. TP is to check with Church Ecclesiastical Parish Plus regarding insuring against cyber fraud.

5.3 Telephone and broadband contract for the vicarage. This is £47 per month for the phone and the broadband, the old phone number has been retained.

5.4 Church credit card for Vicar's expenses. Aaron had expressed a preference for using a credit card for church costs as he did previously. TP had circulated details of a proposal for obtaining a church credit card. After discussion KK proposed accepting this, seconded by BM and unanimously agreed. The treasurer will be the primary administrator and KK will also have administrative access to monitor activity.

5.5 Distribution of Covid fund £625. Recommended policy for making gifts to individuals.

TP had circulated a proposed policy to address any concerns. This was discussed and the policy was agreed following a proposal by NB, seconded by ML and unanimously agreed.

5.6 Renewal of gas and electricity contracts. AB thanked Tony for all the research he had put into producing a detailed report. Basically there are 2 options – take a 1 year fixed rate contract at the rate quoted or take a variable rate. BM said that a fixed rate would give us a better idea of what we were budgeting for. TP is waiting for Total to provide new quotes. We have another month to approve a new contract but in the next two to three weeks we will have to make a decision within 24 hours of receiving firm quotes.

6 Properties

Plans to reduce energy costs – A contingency planning meeting had been held to discuss ways in which to save energy. AK, NB, JH, BM and TP had been present. KD had produced a range of suggestions how we could be more economical in the use of gas and electricity both in the Church and The Chestnuts. These basically fall into one of 3 categories: immediate implementation; implementation after a short period of preparation and long term. The minimum temperature in church could be reduced to 7 degrees when nothing is happening. NB said that we should let the congregation be aware so we can continue life as a church family and hopefully people will not opt for just watching online. Lighting usage is to be reviewed by altering the hours external lighting is used. The outer wooden doors are to be closed with notices stating that the church is still open and people being asked to close the door. Heating controls in church will be looked at. A meeting with the D.A.C. is to be initiated as we move forward with suggestions for solar panels and ground source heat pumps.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Warm Welcome – There is a national and local initiative to provide a warm place for those in need. As part of Otley Warm Spaces Initiative it was agreed that we should offer to fill the Tuesday afternoon slot when 'Open House' is held. JS will write to the local scheme so that this will be advertised in their leaflet.

7.2 365 24-7 Daily Devotions app This was recommended for use by house groups.

AB reported that as David Whitty has not yet been able to look at the lighting in the display cases it will now be turned off until both cases are lit.

Reverend Kennedy had been approached by the Archdeacon as to his feelings on appointing a curate, This would not be until July. It was agreed that Aaron should decide as it would involve

more work for him in mentoring the curate. It was suggested that a space in The Chestnuts could be found to use as an office.

8 Frequency of meetings of the PCC and purpose of meetings

Aaron circulated a suggested schedule for PCC meeting which would include business meetings and discussions to be held monthly. He also suggested an away day in 2022/3, it was agreed to have this after Christmas.

Date of next meeting November 21st

Prayers at next meeting BM

Rev. Aaron Kennedy closed the meeting with prayers