



Minutes of the Zoom meeting of the Parochial Church Council

held on 7th June 2021

Present:

Jonathan Ward, Rector
Marc Bassot
Bill Derham
Sarah Fletcher
Sally Munns
Martin Pinnell
Penny Seabrook
Louise Stockdale
Philippa Tagg

Sybil Andrew
Agata Cienciala
Lenka Ellmann
Sarah Morgan
Annette Pinnell
Jeff Seabrook
Amber Stockdale
Jeremy Tagg

1. Apologies for Absence/Prayer

Apologies were received from Richard Ford. We welcomed Louise and Agata to their first PCC meeting. Jon mentioned here that there would be more Vision than business meetings this year with communication by email in between if necessary.

Jon opened with a verse from 2 Corinthians and then we had a time of shared prayer.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 25th February and 23rd March

These Minutes were agreed subject to 2 alterations - in the February minutes, Item 4, "at the March meeting" should read "at future meetings". In the March minutes, "the **valuation** of the lease of the flat ..." should read "the **extension**". Laura Mascarenhas will not be joining the Learning Leadership scheme in the summer. She will preach one Sunday in August.

3. Finance

- The Finance Sub-Committee report was received
- Gift from Sybil Nundy - £10,000. There was no specific designation, so this will go into General Funds.
- Sara Blackburn Mission Support. The PCC has had the opportunity to see her video. She is asking for financial support to start from August. It was agreed to offer her £1200 (same as that offered to Alyssa). Jon will discuss with Sara the best way to transfer this.

The giving page on the website was used in the first week. There will be a campaign page for the lighting project – with more detail, history etc. This will go out to the community too. Suggestions made were to use social media channels, the residents' associations etc.

The planned date to start the project is 28th June and contractors have already been into the church. The final cost may be subject to unexpected issues.

Action – Jon to discuss with Sara.

4. YPFE Role

Jon and Amber have started on a revision of the job description. Jon made 3 alternative suggestions -

Don't re-advertise

Re-advertise with revised job description

Re-advertise for role on part time basis

At this point there was a general discussion on finance which was relevant to the continued financing of this post.

Lenka reported that May accounts were not yet completed but the church finances we were in a better position than expected. Based on the first four months of income and expenses and given that the rest of the year will follow in a similar pattern to the first four months, there is reasonable expectation that the church will break even for the end of the financial year.

The church needs to make all possible efforts to raise finances to support the lighting projects, current costs for the projects are £69K + VAT making the total £82K.

The cash available to church sits at £146K (current account, SJ current account, deposit account with the diocese), given no material change to income and expenses, we need to have 25% of annualised expenses in reserves to satisfy going concern covenants, in numbers this means that we need to have year end balance of the reserves account at approx.£42K.

Should we not support the lighting project with fundraising and possible VAT grant and use the cash reserves to settle the full costs, reserves would sit at approx. £62K which is within the covenant.

No fund raising yet for the lighting project. At the end of the year there would be £40,000 left in the church a/c which includes Sybil's legacy also other possible donations.

It was agreed to fund the lighting project from reserves.

We would be funding a full year's cost for the YPFE post. There would be no cost under Learning Leadership.

The tender price for the lighting project was agreed with £2,000 contingency.

We would need to seek funding for the YPFE post, also SJs. Volunteers would be sought to search for other funders, maybe after Covid.

Over the next 5 years we would need to fund some work on the building – plastering, painting, external masonry work. There is time to obtain funding for these repairs.

We would probably need to dig into general funds for the YPFE post at the end of 3-year pledges which end in July. There is no certainty that these pledges will be extended.

Some regular givers had increased their support, some have left the church. One generous gift was made the other day. If we go forward to advertise the YPFE post this may encourage more people to give. We need £30,000 -£40,000 to replenish our reserves. We currently have £140,000 in cash and reserves. We can afford to fund the YPFE post and the lighting project.

The majority favoured advertising the YPFE post on a full-time basis.

There will be a team to look at the Job Description and take this project forward, including someone from outside the church. This was agreed by the PCC.

More details re financing with a budget - this will be provided by Lenka.

Action – Lenka to provide details re financing of YPFE post with a budget.

5. Services from 21st June

There is currently no guidance from the diocese re singing etc. All this will take time to adjust and we will need to look in a flexible way at how we may ease people back into church and encourage confidence.

With regard to the children – we have 5 regulars of primary school age and a further 9 of different ages. There were different family dynamics regarding our on-line services, with different expectations.

Different possibilities were considered, evaluating how we adopt a sensibly cautious approach that allows people to engage at the point at which they feel comfortable. These included the use of outdoor space, good ventilation, how to approach communion, length of service, provision for young people, etc

It was confirmed that the on-line service would continue but would be shorter, and in a slightly different format.

Louise felt that groups for the smaller ones should be reinstated ASAP, some family friendly services, games in the park with activities for children, to be reviewed weekly, with ongoing dialogue and feedback.

The PCC were invited to consider the range of options and email further thoughts to Jon or Amber.

Richard queried provision for the 8 o'clock regulars – and it was noted that they will be considered in the format we finally adopt.

Marc suggested a survey to have a sense of who else we might be reaching.

These suggestions were noted.

Action – email Jon or Amber with thoughts.

6. Unconscious Bias Workshop

This had received the approval of the majority of the PCC. It will take place on Tuesday 15th June. It was felt that the cost was not great.

7. Wardens' Update – nothing more to report

8. Approval of Welcomers – the list given at the APCM was approved.

9. Safeguarding – Ratification of Diocese Safeguarding Policies.

This policy needs to be ratified year on year, there are generally only a few adjustments. St. John's normally accepts what the Diocese puts forward (last year was missed). An A3 poster is in the porch and at SJs – the date on these posters will be adjusted.

This was agreed and we were encouraged to keep trained.

Safeguarding needs had been met for 14+ activities at Milly's farm. This was approved by the PCC – parents must transport. A question was raised re risk assessment.

It was confirmed that there are no other mid-week groups this term. Resources (human) were needed for younger age groups. Feelers were being put out – people need to catch the vision.

Action – Adjust date on A3 posters in porch and at SJs.

10. Inclusion/Diversity Team update

There is a possible site at the back of the church for a disabled access toilet in a 16ft. by 8ft. building. Penny was authorised to investigate the cost of an architect (maybe the diocesan one?). If the cost is over £500, 3 quotes will be needed.

Penny realised that the YPFE post currently had priority and there could be longer term provision for those with other types of disabilities. There needs to be a shift in the mindset of the congregation. Julia and Agata will prepare a presentation for addressing this. There needs to be guidelines for welcomers. Safeguarding needs to become a regular feature for all events so that provision for all can be as safe and

accessible as possible.

11. Any other business

Jon will meet with Richard Cienicala regarding SJs.

The next PCC meeting will take place on 13th July 2021.

Signed

Date.....