

St Mary's Church, Brighstone, Isle of Wight

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

8th October 2015 at St Mary's Church, Brighstone

D R A F T Minutes

Attendees: Alan Edwards (Chair), Norma Bradley, June Horsfall, Gill Bradbury, Jean Wavell, Pat Spittles, Peter Johnson, Alison Mascarenhas (Secretary)

Apologies: Beth Peckham, Keith Plater, Rev'd Helen O'Sullivan

1. The meeting was opened with prayer.
2. The PCC elected June Horsfall as a new Church Warden and Alison Mascarenhas as PCC Secretary.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising: Update on church wireless internet-June gave an update from Keith in his absence.

Screen installation-Keith is awaiting a quote from Clark's mechanical to install a switchable screen.

Projector-a suitable wireless full HD projector will cost around £500, bulbs £129 and 2 year warranty.

Church wireless internet connection is on hold while there is further discussion as to where to site it as cable installers BT will only attach to a solid external surface. Lee to discuss with architect before the contract with Plusnet is terminated.

Sound mixer-Keith will discuss further with a Christian sound engineer from Southampton after the church wireless system is active.

4. Finance

Kathy Davies, Treasurer was welcomed to the meeting and made some comments on the Balance Sheet, Fund movement summary and analysis of income and expenditure of 2015 to date.

The Christmas Tree Festival had expenditure listed but no income. It was thought that the festival may have its own account now. Alan to discuss with Chris Goodman.

Stirling Cottage seemed to have less coming in than in previous years but this was due to current renovation of the house.

Youth work and Age UK worker seemed to have no income but there were funds set aside within the budget. The church contributes to the costs of the Youth Workers via a monthly contribution to SWAY (South Wight Area Youth partnership). This is funded from a Youth Worker account held in the main church account. We get adequate donations for this from a number of donors, not all in the parish. Our contribution to Age UK worker will end on April next year.

It was queried whether Kathy should be a signatory for the church. Kathy was relatively new to her role and it was agreed that a meeting with Alison, Accountant and others within the finance team to support her in her new role.

Norma said she was having difficulty setting up a standing order to pay the youth worker. Alan said he would investigate.

Alan reported that the Parish Giving Scheme was going well with 21 people in the scheme which amounted to a total monthly income of £1,300.

5. Friends of St Mary's

Norma reported that the Friends of St Mary's had been set up to encourage those in the community to raise funds for the preservation, repair and maintenance of the church building. A notice about the Friends was in the village newsletter and Norma hoped to visit various village groups such as the WI. Friends annual membership is £25 single and £40 double/plus guest. Friends will be able to attend events such as Quizzes, Talks, Concerts free of charge. Alan agreed to help Norma with gift aiding of membership and offered to give a talk on the IOW rifles in Gaza at a Friends event. The PCC voted in favour of the Friends proposal.

The idea of sponsorship was also discussed whereby people or local businesses could sponsor a day in the life of the church which worked out at around £200. Several people could join together to sponsor a day and the donation could be in memory of someone, christening, wedding etc. The sponsorship proposal needed further discussion and it was agreed to put the item on the next PCC agenda.

6. Fabric

Miriam Crewe and Jo Murray-Smith were welcomed to the meeting. Miriam highlighted some points from the Fabric Committee meeting minutes which were circulated.

Stirling Cottage – Economiser heaters were to be installed shortly. The renovation was progressing and was still within budget of £6,400 for improvements.

Floodlights – The porch security light remained continuously on at present and needed attending to by an electrician. The floodlights also needed repairing and after discussion it was agreed to repair the security light and ask for a costing of the repair of the floodlights. The direction of one of the floodlights need altering.

Step by bookstall – The step by the bookstall is a trip hazard and the PCC agreed to go ahead with the repair by Alan MacDougall of £1425 including materials.

Quinquennial report – this was completed by Jeremy Poll in July 2015 and gave a very detailed report on the church fabric. The church is generally in good order but some work needs to be done to prevent further deterioration and make good previous work. The report gives new evidence and documentation which will help the church to apply for grant funds for repair work.

The work in the North Aisle, Nave and Chancel roofs are given urgent priority and there was discussion about the detail of the work required. The PCC decided to update the quotes, get an updated schedule of work and ask the quantity surveyor to update the figures. Jeremy Poll would be asked to assist with grant application which would cost £2000 plus VAT for his services. The PCC agreed the order of work outlined in the Fabric Committee minutes of 22nd September 2015.

The Quinquennial report recommends that the church has a Log Book listing all work carried out relating to Fabric. June agreed to put together a Log Book for completion.

Lightning Protection was discussed and whether the tower should have a lightning conductor. Gill was asked to investigate whether the insurers require it and the matter would be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

7. Church Teams

Gill outlined the draft document on church teams which listed members of the congregation who acted as coordinators in a particular area of church life or ministry. These coordinators really were taking on the role of communication within a small team of individuals. The PCC voted in favour of the document and agreed June and Gill to talk to the suggested coordinators.

8. Church Survey

Gill had amended the Church Survey from the last meeting. There were no further comments on the survey and Gill said she would ask Anna to put it as an insert in the Link and ask for it to be returned by the end of October. Peter said he would be happy to summarise and analyse the results.

9. Any Other Business

Exchange – June said there was an Open Day next week. Gill had just agreed the insurance which amounted to £218/year. It was planned to install a toilet in the exchange and a grant application was in process to fund this.

Health and Safety – Gill asked for any comments on the document to be sent to her. Peter Horsfall was the Health and Safety Officer.

Organ Scholarship – Gill said that the choir was unable to rehearse with the organ for the third Sunday service and there was a lack of male singers. Gill said that she had discussed a proposal of an organ scholarship with Helen, Beth and Chris and money was available from the Dorothy Brooke Fund. Some concerns were expressed about this idea and it was agreed that there should be further discussion at the next meeting with Beth present.

Bells- June said she had circulated information from Steve Noyes about the proposal to add 2 more bells to the bell tower. It was agreed that this should go on the next PCC agenda and Steve and Beccy Noyes should be invited to the meeting.

The meeting was closed in prayer.