

Minutes of PCC Meeting - Monday 14th October 2019

Present: Beverly Watson (**Chair**), Marguerite Barclay, Rebecca Brown, Rob Burch, Simon Doran, Lesley Graham, Eve Gunn, Henrietta Harding, Robin Holdsworth, Chris Lambert, Julie Lodge, Carolyn Nicholls, Paddy Payne, Jo Smalley, Trish Tye (**Secretary**), Martyn Whiteman, Richard Pointer (for church seating item)

Apologies: Lara Milne, Angela Rose

1. Approval of minutes

1.1. The minutes of the meetings held on 15th July 2019 and 28th September 2019 were approved and signed.

2. Standing committee decisions

2.1. The standing committee decisions of 17th September 2019 were noted.

3. Vision Groups

3.1. Finance:

Chris Lambert presented the three-quarter year accounts, reporting a £5.5k surplus against a predicted deficit of a similar amount. Income is approximately £7.5k above budget and expenditure is down.

Chris explained how it is difficult to allocate premises expenses across the year as it is not known when the budgeted amount will be spent.

Proposal: That we set up two new subordinate funds, one for church hall and the other for the church, for major expenditures. A regular amount should be drawn from the main fund to these funds on a quarterly basis and that the expenditure that gets occurred will be charged against the appropriate subordinate fund.

Proposed: Chris Lambert; **Seconded:** Rob Burch; All in favour.

Chris predicts a surplus at year-end prior to mission giving.

Action: Finance Vision Group to look at tidying up some of the funds, for example the Windows Fund.

3.1.1 Church Seating:

Beverly presented the proposal from the church seating group to the PCC and Paddy presented facts and figures regarding the process, chair choices and the likely costs of replacing the pews with chairs.

Julie suggested that the wording “PCC approval for use of the building by any outside agency or group”, should read “outside agencies will seek PCC approval”

Action: Beverly to amend the proposal.

There was some discussion regarding the vision for the church. The responses we have had so far suggest that approximately 70% are in favour of the change.

It was suggested that initially, the cost of the change should not be the deciding factor, but that we must first decide if this is a change that would be beneficial to the future of All Saints. Rob suggested that if we agree the change is beneficial, then we could set a time limit to raising the funds, after which we go ahead or return the financial gift.

Proposal: that we take this proposal forward to a parish consultation.

Proposed: Beverly Watson; **Seconded:** Henrietta Harding;

Not in favour: Robin Holdsworth; **Abstained:** Rebecca Brown;
Remaining in favour.

3.1.2 Premises:

Robin reported on the latest progress from the Premises Vision Group, including the Poyle Trust not granting us a second award for Reading Room improvements. It is likely that we can fund the remaining improvements from the premises budget.

Robin has been pursuing quotes for a digital survey and needs further discussion with suppliers to ascertain the surveys needed.

Rob asked whether we should be increasing the rent on Thorn Bank, which has remained static for three years. Robin was advised by the agent that the market is difficult and that the current tenant is unlikely to pay more.

3.1.3 Old Baptistry Window Designs:

Paddy presented the various suggestions that we have had submitted. The Premises Vision Group will consider the designs at their next meeting and come back to the December PCC with a decision for ratification.

Action: Trish to ask PCC members for their feedback on the designs prior to the premises vision group meeting on 13th November.

4. Transforming Church Plan

4.1. Review of goals.

This item was postponed to the next PCC as the previous items had taken longer than scheduled.

5. Vicar's report

Beverly updated the PCC on the period since the last PCC:

- Thanks to all who came to the away morning in September; it was a good and useful time, and lovely to spend that time together. We drew out some action points, to help us towards growth in numbers at our Sunday services. Since then I've written an article for the October Magazine, under the title 'Your Church Needs You!', asking people to imagine what our church would look like if all 170 adults and 40 children on the Family List came each Sunday. The reality is that only about a third of us are there each Sunday.
- Propose we survey the congregation regarding our Sunday Services. Are they hitting the mark for people? Are the times of the Services right? Is the style of worship appropriate? Would people come if we did things differently? I feel this is an important focus for us in the coming months, and one which we've identified through our Transforming Church goals. It is integrally related to our discussion about church furniture, and how we use the church in worship and for the community.
- We've launched our bible reading initiative; and it will be good to have report back on that at our next meeting
- We've had a really good prayer space at QE with huge numbers of children coming – 70 the first day; and some children coming every day.

- We had Messy Church at QE as part of the week; thanks to Carolyn for heading that up while I was on leave, preparing for Andrew's father's funeral last Friday.
- We're in the middle of our QE Harvest Festivals at the moment, with one today and another tomorrow. We should note that our work at QE is booming; but also, that I'm quite stretched in terms of time to do all that they're asking of us.
- In general, I'm a bit overstretched in terms of capacity, since Pippa moved on; and I'm looking to use Mavis Wilson and Julian Hubbard a bit more in the coming months, to offer extra clergy capacity at All Saints.

6. Safeguarding

6.1. Update

Julie reported that the Diocesan Self Audit is complete and has been submitted. We met as a safeguarding team on Saturday. We have had one issue of concern with Matrix. They had a change of leader and the handover was not as good as it could've been. Beverly is dealing with that issue. As Matrix operate under their own safeguarding procedures, it's not directly to do with us, but it would reflect badly on us if there was a problem. Julie is keeping a close eye on the Matrix Hub.

7. Approvals

7.1. Resource Library

As part of the move of the Diocesan Resource Library to All Saints, there are three documents that have needed PCC approval:

- Letter of Understanding
- Library Assistant job description
- Application to the Diocesan Growth Fund

Robin queried the amount quoted as 'reserves' on the application to the Growth Fund. Martyn responded that he had checked with Chris and that the Diocese were also sent the accounts and so could see the full picture.

Carolyn and Marguerite both questioned a paragraph on the job description. (Since the meeting Trish has circulated the correct version of the job description where the paragraph in question reads correctly).

Proposal: That the PCC approve all three documents listed above.

Proposed: Martyn Whiteman; **Seconded:** Trish Tye; All in favour.

7.2. Bonfire & Fireworks event

At the safeguarding meeting it was decided that the bonfire and fireworks event should be formally approved by the PCC each year as it is a high-risk event.

Proposal: that each year the PCC is given sufficient notice to approve the firework event.

Proposed: Simon Doran; **Seconded:** Paddy Payne; All in favour.

Proposal: that we continue to sell tickets and organise and run the event as, we as a PCC, have approved this year's bonfire and fireworks event.

Proposed: Paddy Payne, **Seconded:** Simon Doran; All in favour.

Action: Trish to send all PCC members their responsibility as charity trustees.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Dates & Events

There are no updates to the calendar.

10. Dates of future meetings

Standing Committee – 19th November 2019

PCC – 16th December 2019

PART 2 (*Confidential items*)

(none)

Note: The [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) is referenced here for your convenience.

Minutes approved on 16th December 2019

Signed: