

Holy Trinity Church of Seer Green & Jordans
Minutes of the PCC meeting of 27th June 2023 at 7.45pm

Present:

Jez Carr, *Chair*

Olwyn Davison-Oakley, Janine Dunnell, Janna Holder, Janice Barrett, Linda West, Anthony Bargioni and Anne Wall (Minutes)

Apologies: Norah Bennett, Sue Puttergill and Audrey Hardy

1. WELCOME AND PRAYER

Olwyn thanked everyone for their attendance and Jez read from Psalm 103.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 9th May were approved.

Proposer Jez. Secunder Janice.

3. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Jez explained that he will not always wear full robes in services as discussed in the last meeting as he feels variety is important. He will sometimes wear a preaching scarf instead of the stole.

5.2 Safeguarding Sunday will be on January 14th next year and a linked charity such as A Women's Refuge will be designated as one of our monthly charities.

4.1 The attempts to fix the boiler are ongoing as a temporary measure. The new wooden structure (the grandstand) has been erected in Jez's garden following consultation with the neighbours but more work is necessary.

8.4 The churchyard yew trees are due to be crown lifted rather than removed and price quotations have been obtained. Some villagers may object to complete removal but yew can regenerate from ground level. The work is due to be done in September to avoid the nesting season.

7. Parish magazines. Janna felt we need to be proactive and approach people to subscribe, possibly at the fete or the church teas in August. Currently the magazine is published at a loss. Janna felt a website link and direct debit would target younger people.

4. UPDATE FROM REV JEZ CARR

The new building is progressing well thanks to Tom. There will be featherboard sides and a tin roof as well as an electricity supply which will hopefully be finished shortly.

Confirmation classes for two teenagers begin tomorrow and the bishop will carry out the ceremony on 17th September in Chalfont St Giles. The kids' ministry is under discussion by Jez, Janna and Louise to avoid duplication although there will be some overlap of age groups. The Baptist church already focus on the 0-7 group through Explore and 4th Sundays. Holy Trinity will focus on 5-10s with the 1st Sunday afternoon group. The 9 to 13s are already catered for by the Baptist church and we will hope to establish the grandstand, the Beer Fest and other connections such as a youth service with appropriate music. The churches will continue close contact.

Last week we had a christening and some recently baptised families returned including 21 children who appreciated the area at the back of the church. We would like to encourage this. Anthony wondered if families might change churches but Janna thought this unlikely. Parents will go to whichever offers suitable activities and perhaps bring their friends. We will offer the opportunity to chat over tea and biscuits. Olwyn praised the way the churches work together in our village. Jez suggested the second Sunday of the month could become a more contemporary style of service with a broader appeal and a different format. The semi-circle communion pattern received mixed reviews.

From July Jez will revert to two days a week, probably Wednesdays and Thursdays. The next PCC meeting will take place on 14th September at 7pm.

5. FACULTY / HEATING / FURNITURE

A: The pulpit. Our pulpit is not original and Jez does not use it. A vote was taken to remove and store it.

6 people agreed but 1 voted against as it is a traditional feature.

B: The front and back pews. If the front pews are removed there will be more space for the keyboard etc. The removal of the back pews provides more space for young families and hospitality. The pews will be stored temporarily and we can always borrow extra chairs from the Baptist church. Ultimately we will need to buy and store chairs as Olwyn pointed out.

6 people agreed to the removal, 1 voted against.

C: The screen can be re-adjusted at a lower level if the pulpit is removed. This will suit most people but a few may need ipads to see clearly. Janine pointed out that this would be expensive.

6 votes in favour, 1 abstained.

D: The plinth around the font is a trip hazard. *The vote to remove it was unanimous.*

E: The unstable pews need to be removed, keeping the stable ones. *This was agreed unanimously.*

F: Removal of the screen/rail between the nave and the choir area. This would allow space for the keyboard at a higher level. Linda felt some people use it as an aid to the step.

5 votes in favour and two abstentions.

G: Removal of the priest's chair. Janine said we may have to leave the priest's chair on the left side as it appears to be attached to the choir pews. It might then make sense to leave the rail as a handrail. It was decided to discuss this further and to seek permission to remove the screen.

5 votes in favour and two abstentions.

H: The repositioning of the organ. 6 votes in favour; 1 voted against.

I: Repainting. This will need scaffolding and is a health and safety issue. Mark will be consulted.

Vote unanimously in favour. Audrey, Jez and Janine to fundraise and try to obtain donations from Crown paints in Amersham

J: The speaker system. The current one is not fit for purpose but £1,200 would buy a new one with two speakers at the front. Linda asked if it would be too quiet from the back but Jez reassured her. She also asked whether they would be suitable for the organ. Jez said its speakers are separate.

Linda pointed out that there are no microphones in the choir area. So perhaps we need to consider additional speakers there for the benefit of any future band or choir.

There was a unanimous vote to replace the system.

6. SAFEGUARDING

Olwyn has sent out the report but would like ideas for action. Janna pointed out that all policies and procedures are in place and we already apply best practice. Jez would like to create a safe place where people feel they can bring their problems in a welcoming and non-judgmental atmosphere. Olwyn felt that everyone should be responsible for safeguarding but we also need to minimise risk - especially to our leaders. She has checked certification for PCC members. Janine thanked her for her hard work.

7: FINANCE

We do have some reserves but are now in deficit over the year so we need to consult Audrey over large expenditures. We need to pay for a measured survey of the space and this will cost £1,350 plus VAT. This is essential for planning permission. We may be able to get £2,500 from the Diocesan Development fund. Linda wanted to reclaim the Parish Hall but we cannot afford to lose the revenue.

There was unanimous agreement to commission the measured survey, but to wait for the Diocesan grant before proceeding with the architect's drawings.

8: BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARD

The tree pruning will be planned for September but we urgently need the grass cutting in the churchyard before the cream teas in August. Janine has obtained a quotation of £650 for this.

9: AOB

1. The minutes of this meeting will be circulated to the PCC members first and then put on the website after Jez has given a verbal update to the congregation on 23 July at both services.

2. The village, starting with our congregation, should be informed about the proposed changes. Jez will give regular updates in the services but a public meeting will also be necessary. Janna suggested September.
3. The update for the pewsheet: Janna will consult with Jez.

10: CLOSING PRAYER

We closed with the grace.

The next meeting will be on September 14th at 7pm in the Vestry