



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 12th May at 6pm

MINUTES

Attendance: Julian Dawson (Secretary), Olivia Davies, Alison McMunn, Caroline Charman, Richard Hackworth, Mark Grego (chair), Alan Conway, Chris Beauchamp, Richard Currie, Tim Hennessey, Simon Vivian, David Northcote, Pru Murray, Astrid Biddle, Christopher Green

1. **Prayers**

2. **Apologies:** John Russell

3. **Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business:** None.

4. Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 25th February 2020 approved.

5. **Matters Arising:**

Confirmation of extension of term of office and postponement of APCM in line with diocesan recommendations.

6. **Standing Committee Reports**

MG submitted application proposing Phil Odley (of Oxley Conservation: Historic Buildings Consultancy) as surveyor. As he is not an architect or building surveyor the company proposed Richard Oxley (owner of the company) to conduct the Quinquennial Inspection. DAC have sent Richard Oxley the form to complete.

7. **Committee/Group Reports**

- Finance

Circulated Summary Finance Report prior to the meeting and received no questions in regards to this report.

ASH Resolution (circulated prior to meeting, outlining the changes that need to be made to the legal conditions surrounding the house and land)

RH proposed the PCC approve the Resolution. RC seconded. Resolution approved.

The decision to re-let the property or sell it still sits with the PCC.

RH highlighted that the Covid 19 situation is causing house prices to drop and rental prices have dropped by 5-8%.

In the short-term there is the possibility to let the house either to Sunnyside (to house a Curate) or Ray Ashley Brown (Chaplain of St Francis Hospice). We do not know how much these two parties would be willing to pay and MG added that as we are dependent on the income of ASH we would need to look at the market rental.

PCC agreed that when SV vacates the property the PCC no longer want to be responsible for the management of the tenants.

TH proposed once SV has vacated we rent the property but keep the option of selling when the market has recovered. AM seconded. Agreed.

TH offered a note of thanks for RH and all the work he has done recovering money from the government's furloughed scheme.

- Buildings Committee

Recommendations on crime preventions: Diocese over the last past year has been exhorting PCC's to install roof alarms to prevent the theft of roof metals. Police Crime Prevention Officer visited the Church and produced a report with recommendations.

MG proposed the acceptance of the recommendations, RH seconded.

Buildings plan of work:

MG distributed the spreadsheet plan of work prior to the meeting.

- Upped the priority of the Lady Chapel – no immediate risk but if not addressed will have major long-term impacts.
- Court House: Buildings Committee have decided we don't have the funds to carry out all the work therefore this has been split into phases.
Phase 1a: repair of the flat roof above the Court House toilets and extending and insulating the CH cottage bathroom. Estimated cost: £11, 000 but the cost **doesn't include replacing the flat roof** therefore estimate the cost will increase. MG proposed we accept phase 1, the Buildings Committee will see what the increased figure is and decide if the standing committee can make that decision.
- The costs are more than anticipated and have not yet been interrogated, although the Quantity surveyor does seem very competent. RH thinks we should summarise what the costs look like and relook at it at the June meeting.
- 50/50: Fundraising and Church funds – RH agrees that's a reasonable expectation.
Question raised: are we looking at grants or general people fundraising? MG would like someone to volunteer to research possible grants for the Church and the CH. At the moment the Friends are not going to be doing that. Once we know what grants are available then we know what fundraising will need to be done. Bear in mind the Heritage Hub (James Moir).
- Court House Cottage. RH thanked Peter McMunn for his work on this. Estimates the work on the cottage cannot start for at least 3 months. There has been no progress with a short-term lent. Aitchisons recommend we reduce the rent from £1500 to £1350-1400 a month.
RH proposed that that the monthly rental be reduced, to which the PCC agreed.
- South Transept Roof (estimated cost £1400). CG questioned whether this included scaffolding but the building has been surveyed and this was the complete price estimate given.

8. **Worship during Lockdown**

TH said Fr John has done a fantastic job during lockdown but it was great to see SV back in the Church. AM commented how smoothly it was done.

SV had a call with Bsp Michael who estimates we won't return to normal worship until Christmas and the long term repercussions of Covid19 expected to be 2-5years. Churches will be in the 3rd wave of opening.

SV would like to open the Church for individual private prayer, possibly with someone in attendance. The opportunity for people of faith or none to be able to access the Church to light a candle of hope would be really desirable – from July.

Simon has no idea of his departure date, his license has been extended until January 2021 and the government update on Sunday 11th May hasn't changed his reason to postpone his move, he is still more effective here in Berkhamsted. When Fr Stuart arrives, this may change the dynamic.

This will need to be factored into the conversation with regards to the letting of ASH.

9. **Date of Next Meeting – 16th June 6 p.m. via Zoom**

10. **Any Other Business**

TH offered a vote of thanks to Hilary for her work coordinating the telephone list and keeping in contact.

SV thanked Robin McMorran for his work in assisting with the streaming and the Facebook monitoring.

11. **The Grace**