



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 16th June 2020 at 6pm

MINUTES

Attendance: Julian Dawson (Secretary), Olivia Davies (minutes), Mark Grego (chair), Alison McMunn, Caroline Charman, Richard Hackworth, Alan Conway, Richard Currie, Tim Hennessey, Simon Vivian, David Northcott, Pru Murray, Christopher Green, Jon Lee

1. Prayers
2. Apologies – Joe Roberts, Hilary Elliot, Chris Beauchamp
3. Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business
- Safeguarding reminder
4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 12th May 2020 - Approved
5. Matters Arising - None
6. Standing Committee Reports – none have met
7. Committee/Group Reports
 - Finance
RH circulated reports prior to the meeting. PM queried: are there any restrictions over the way we use the legacy funds? RH: No, it is at the discretion of the PCC.
MG thanked RH for his work in reletting the Courthouse Cottage.
 - Buildings Committee
ASH: Michael Andersson is arranging for the outside gutters to be replaced and obtain a quote to replace the boiler (once SV has vacated).
MG will send out a briefing paper of how the Buildings Committee will work and from now on the minutes from BC meetings will be distributed prior to PCC meetings.
MG distributed the building priorities spreadsheet, including updated figures for the Court House. He received no feedback from the PCC. JL queried: was it not agreed that the Catherine Chapel furniture and organisation is appropriate as it is, glass screening and better heating is needed but the reorganisation is not necessary? MG confirmed this is correct and will amend the footnotes to make it clearer what the potential work will be.

Peter McMunn updated the PCC on the work on the CHC.

Phase 1a: Improve environmental performance of the CHC bathroom, insulate and relay flat roof and extend the bathroom to get a better rental - **£24,000 (building costs £16,000)**

Phase 1b: Rerental of the flat roof toilet block (no point doing the toilet block if the roof then starts leaking). Design of the toilets assumes the removal of most of the roof lights, cost includes taking out most of the roof lights and moving one of the ones that we do want to retain. **£62,000**

Estimate cost of Phase 1: £86,000

Whilst these costs seem high they include: 10% contingency, 20% VAT, 20% professional fees, so these are realistic estimates and these costs will crop up at some point.

TH commented that all our ambitions are reliant on our work on the CH, it has potential for higher income rental therefore we should crack on with phase 1!

PCC approve this estimate and will obtain quotation from the architect and get statutory consent (Bathroom subject to conservation consent).

CG confirmed that the first thing to do is to commit to the funding and get in the application for consent.

RH proposed. CC seconded. All voted in favour.

8. 800th Anniversary
PM has done a great job of researching funding sources in response to MG's request at the previous meeting, with thanks to CG for passing on a long list. Funding for building work, maintenance and community projects. Some do not want to be linked with religious organisations but some do. Currently looking at requests for grants relating to Covid19.
800 Year Anniversary
PM has been contacted by an architect with an idea to create an outdoor spiritual space in St Peter's Churchyard for socially distanced services, gatherings and prayers with the possibility of hiring the seating/area out. This would be a mark to this period of time with a Christian focal point. This would be unveiled in 2022 and host fundraising activities alongside this. The architect mocked up a design which was sent to the PCC prior to the meeting. PM recognises that the area would need to be well lit to deter undesirables but if we were to make it a positive community space that people feel proud of it would be cared for and respected.
PCC would need to speak to the diocese and obtain planning permission.
Feedback from the PC very positive. AM loves it. TH agrees that we should tap into the extra funds that are available as a result of Covid19.
DN queried: do we have a map of who is buried there? To which SV responded that they were moved.
Question as to whether there are restrictions from the diocese in classifying the land in a different way, CG confirmed we would need a faculty and as soon as we have a proposal we will need to approach the DAC (who are currently meeting via Zoom.)
Action: PM will draft a proposal for the Buildings Committee to look at. If anyone has any thoughts as to what they would like to add to the design send them to PM. PCC to approve the design proposal by October meeting (but preferably earlier).
9. Worship during Lockdown
St Peter's Church reopened for individual prayer on Mon 15th June 2020 for 3 hours a day with a steward and chaplain available at all times. Numbers entering the Church are being recorded and have so far been low but SV stressed the importance of the visibility of us being open, we are offering what we can at the moment and it is a comfort to people to see the doors open. AC did suggest opening the West doors, not allowing access here, but to make it clearer that the Church is open. SV responded that the Churchwardens have discussed this but it would increase supervision requirement by 33%. SV thanked HA for the amount of work she has done to make this possible and to the volunteers who are stewarding the Church. RH added his thanks to SV for the work and preparations he has put in place.
Action: SV will speak to HA re getting a sandwich board made outside the Southside Doors and make the signage at the West Doors more obvious.
10. Date of Next Meeting –8pm, Tuesday 14th July via Zoom (glass of fizz optional for Bastille Day/TH's wedding anniversary!)
11. Any Other Business
HE would like to remind people to let her know of any safeguarding concerns.
TH: mark of thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with work on the Rectory this week.
12. The Grace