



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 11th May 2021
at 8pm

Minutes

Present: Fr Stuart Owen (Chair), Julian Dawson (Secretary), Mark Grego (Churchwarden), Tim Hennessey, Olivia Davies (minutes) Christopher Green, Alan Conway, Astrid Biddle, Caroline Charman, Richard Hackworth, Jon Lee, Pru Murray, Susan Holmes, David Cooke, Christine Cowie, Hilary Elliot, Peter Matthews, Oliver Fradgely

1. Prayers

2. Apologies: Nick Goss, Chris Beauchamp, Joe Roberts.

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

4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 – TH Proposed, MG seconded.

5. Matters Arising

Item 6: SO to arrange a meeting with the Standing Committee.

Item 13: Castle Fed governor – Jenny Jenkins and Rob Halls to attend a service at St Peter's and do an appeal for a governor/be available to give more information.

Item 15: Online streaming. TH fed back that Matthew Dilly estimated a cost of £20,000. TH reported that a congregation member (Mumford) had commented how much he appreciated the streaming and offered to contribute to this cost.

6. Standing Committee Reports

Additional funding for Rectory Lane Cemetery – PCC agreed an increase donation to £5000.
Selection of charities: WaterAid and The Swan Youth Project (RH organised)

7. Committee/Group Reports

• Finance RH

- Report circulated prior to the meeting, highlighted the legacy.
- Contactless Terminal – New supplier, will be sufficiently active, come and give a demonstration. The old system will continue to be used until we have a replacement.
Action: RH to discuss with MG, TH, HA and JL. RH will keep the Standing Committee involved and the PCC agreed that RH can go ahead without consulting in a meeting.
- ASH: A change to the charity scheme that prevented PCC letting it out on the public system.
- Money Laundering Controls, currently Paypal (receive donations) and CCLA (some money on deposit with them). RH requires details of all trustees, queried whether trustees will change at the upcoming APCM but JD confirmed there will be no elections.
Action: RH will write to current trustees to retain more information.

• Buildings Committee MG

PMcM has received tenders for the work on the CHC (to be discussed in Item 11).
Quinquennial Inspection Report distributed to PCC prior to meeting. Recommended that Priority B projects commence within 18 months. Estimated costs of Priority B reroofing (South Aisle, St John's chantry and St Katherine Chapel): £130,000 + VAT. MG will query if there is a possibility of substituting stainless steel for lead.
Priority C projects include reroofing of the North aisle and South transept will need to be looked at in the next few years.

CG added that VAT should be recoverable on all that work.

Also need to arrange for a structural engineer to inspect a list of items identified in the report. AC added that the structural engineer report from 2017 will need to be brought into the discussion.

Action: The QQI will be discussed by the Standing Committee.

- Pastoral Committee CS
Nothing to report
- Court House Group CS
Hasn't met since the last meeting

8. 800th Anniversary Pru

- Things going in the diary: services, festivals, concerts, walk of the bounds.
- September – invite local groups for an evening at the Church, find out more about the history of the Church, sign up to be involved.
- More social events for the congregation and the town, if it is Covid safe to do so.
- Berkhamsted 800 social media site (Facebook).
- Looking at merchandise to sell.
- Churchyard project – still waiting to hear back from the architect, who is looking at the accessibility of paths.

PMath – Friends of St Peter's: possibility of a theatre performance (Illyria Theatre Co) in the Cemetery. The Rotary have organised a performance at the Castle in July 2021. In the past, English Heritage have donated the Castle and this event made £4000 profit. Therefore has the potential to make a reasonable amount of money for the Cemetery and the Church.

AB asked whether nearby residents are on board with performances in the Cemetery, as there have been some issues in the past. Suggestion, it is negotiated carefully, possibly offer free tickets.

Action: PMath continue pursuing the possibility of a children's performance and a Shakespeare play.

Suggestion: 800th appeal. There is lots of money to be spent on the Church at the moment (roof, bells, CH, streaming) and it might attract more attention than just asking for individual sums of money. This appeal could be pushed at the Festival of Light.

MG added that whilst we have been applying for grants, this won't raise enough money and it has been a long time since we asked the town for support. (Discussion cont. in Item 11).

9. Eco-Church SH

Ready to submit for the Bronze award, just waiting on a payment. SO suggests we draw it to the congregations attention, and highlight the next steps to obtain Silver.

Action: Submit Bronze award.

10. Marriage Act Licence for the Berkhamsted Team

This PCC resolves to ask the Bishop to issue an Order in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 paragraph 12 (4) of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 and Section 23 of the Marriage Act 1949 so that the Banns of Matrimony of persons entitled to be married in the churches of any of the Parishes within the Team (including by virtue of a qualifying connection pursuant to section 1 of the Church of England Marriage Measure 2008) may be published in any of the other churches in the Team and the marriage of such persons may be solemnised in any of the churches. SH proposed, CG seconded. Resolution was approved unanimously.

11. Court House Project

Peter McMunn received quotations for the CH work that are higher than expected. PCC don't have sufficient funds for the Priority B repairs and the CH project and reluctantly, we have no choice but to commit to the Priority B repairs. Agreed with the need for the fundraising project discussed in Item 8, also a great opportunity for outreach to the town, and we should look within our resources to see who can lead this project.

Action: Working party to repaint the toilets. Small expenditure.

Action: Commit funds to QI recommendations.

CG – £30, 000 of Apthorpe grant remaining to be retained for the CH project, as the beginning of the appeal.

Funding available from HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) and Diocesan Historic Buildings Officer has offered to come and visit. Important to re-establish our relationship with the friends, their focus is raising the funds, it comes to the PCC/Buildings Committee to project manage.

JL – Specific substantial grants available for organ repairs, just a matter of finding it.

RH – CH Cottage is vacant at the moment (since April). If work is not going to begin on the CH/cottage we need to get it back on the letting market as soon as we can.

PMcM – suggestion of raising £50,000 by interest free loans, with the opportunity to convert the loan into a donation. TH and MG in favour of this idea. Some concerns over risk to future finances and ideally donations would be preferable to loans. AC suggests a single letter, signed by Fr Stuart and the Churchwardens, sent to the congregation.

Action: RH look up the legalities on interest free loans and Standing Committee meet in the next 2 weeks to discuss this.

Quotations for CH will be held open for 30 days, currently well into this period. Further concerned we will lose the time slot for the work.

Action: PMcM to find out the timescale

Action: MG to do a toilet appeal at the APCM.

12. Safeguarding HE

No concerns raised. If anyone has any concerns, please speak to HE.

13. Date of Next Meeting –APCM 16th May; PCC 22nd June in Court House (in person!)

14. Any Other Business – None.

15. The Grace