



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held in the Court House
Tuesday 20th May at 8pm

Attendees:

Sarah Elder - yes
Carolynne Charman - yes
Carole Dell - yes
Susan Holmes - Yes
Hillary Elliot – Yes
Chris Chatterton - yes
Stuart Owen - yes
Henry Snow – yes

AGENDA

Time started: 20:00

1. Prayers
2. Apologies: Will Gore, Richard Hackworth
3. Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business – part 2 confidential section agreed
4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meetings held on 25th February and 1st April. – approved
5. Matters Arising – none
6. Financial Report: CD proposed Henry Snow as Treasurer. CC seconded. All agreed
HS - suggests that Hillary Armstrong should be appointed bookkeeper, handover can begin on that basis, more details by next meeting, proposed a finance committee as a subcommittee (Henry Snow, Richard Hackworth, Hillary Armstrong).
HE – can Hillary go through the safer recruiting because she's being paid? SO – but she's invoicing, so that may not be necessary. Will ask the diocese.
HE proposed delegating authority to HS to appoint Hillary. SE seconded. Agreed
7. Committee/Group Reports
 - Buildings Committee: CC - fixing North Transept lead roof, talked to Richard Oxley, he says we need a contingency of £25,000. Should have enough money.
 - CD - which quote are you going for? CC - haven't decided SH – Richard Oxley will make sure both specs are on the same basis. SO – either way within the funds. As long as its less than £50,000 and Richard Oxley is happy PCC approves?
 - HS - does it include VAT? CC - no. SO - but can reclaim it.
 - HS - it's why a finance committee would be helpful to make sure enough money is there.
 - PCC approves agreeing a quote for work on the roof as long as its less than £50,000 and Richard Oxley is happy with the quote. CD proposed. HE seconded. Agreed

- Fundraising Committee: CC - events happened and in the works. SO – press on with a smaller grant expression of interest as damage from the leaks more pressing. More extensive works (one in a lifetime appeal) delayed as less pressing. SH – we should circulate some information about the two projects – happy to do it. CD – don't want people to think it's all over after the lead roof. ChCh – employing a professional fundraiser? SO – put to one side for now. ChCh - avenues of free advice, he will look. SO – need more clarity about what's going to be done and what we actually need.
- Pastoral Committee: HE - haven't met, talked in passing. Will add request for more people to give lifts in the newsletter and pew sheets, continuing to visit etc. Let HE know of any further needs.

8. Children and families: SE - ticking along, picking up. Good Holy Week. Need to think about the age group split and how to keep both groups interested. Film night went well. Intercessions went well. 15th June Eco church event with SH. Would like a cupboard in the Lady Chapel for easy access for Sunday School. Cupboard approved. SE to look for one.

9. The Quiet Revival Report (link): SO - Bible Society report, received a lot of attention. Young adults more interested. SE - really interesting report. More engagement from 18-34. But engagement slightly different. Christian label not the default so usage indicates active engagement. Challenges narrative of decline. Relationships in congregations underpin successes. Personal connections keep people in church. Younger Christians more comfortable talking about faith than older generations. Report makes recommendations: addressing biblical literacy, intentional intergenerational conversation, engaging with newcomers, invitation and personal relationships to draw people into church. Working group to feed the Quiet Revival report into the Mission Action Plan. Agreed. SE happy to organise.

10. Mission Action Plan: SO - more after half-term but will get one made with a maximum of voices, one side of A4 with a few dated recommendations. One PCC member to lead on it (not responsible for it but invested in it). Will say more at next meeting.

11. Safeguarding: HE - have sent around the safeguarding policy from St Albans. Everyone happy with it? SO – strongly advised to accept it without amendment. SO proposed acceptance. CC seconded. Agreed.
HE – church activities need to be agreed. Are we happy to agree it? SO – same as last year. SE – what about family events (e.g. the film night)? HE – can come under Sunday School. ChCh – what about activities with Risk assessment? HE – risk assessments throwing up problems that are being sorted. Men's lunch? SO - not advertised so doesn't need to be added. CD proposed acceptance of current list. SE seconded. Agreed.

12. Bullying and harassment policy: SO - whistleblower policy will be brought to next meeting. Have a bullying and harassment policy with more details on how to respond to a formal complaint. Happy to adopt it? ChCh – proposed. HE – seconded. Agreed. SO - will have to review when necessary.

13. Bells – chiming at night and regular inspections: SO - context in previous minutes. Has met with them. Had an email since getting back. She suggests bells be disconnected after bell ringing on Thursday and reconnected on Sunday for Sunday ringing. Have three options. Do nothing and possible she makes a complaint. Explore the compromise for a trial period. Completely accept the concerns and look to fundraise for a new mechanism.

What about those who like the bells? SO - has been through both.

Why didn't she consider the bells when she moved? SO - you wouldn't know that.

How much time would it take to do this? SO - not complicated but would be without them the whole of Friday Saturday to Sunday.

SO – is the meeting happy if we have two options, sorry no, or compromise?

Vote: compromise till July unanimous. SO will go back to her.

14. Dates of Next Meetings: SO - odd pattern. Suggests a pattern of meeting alternate odd months. Happy? general agreement. SH – April to approve accounts before APCM? SO – yes.
15. Any Other Business – Martin Moore has resigned from the PCC march 30th, accepted March 31st.
16. The Grace

Time Finished: 21:21