

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at the Church on 8 April 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Rev Diane Whittaker (Chair), Rev Sue Stanley, Marcus Rixon, Celina Francklin, Margaret Williams, Henry Syrett, Charlotte Yorke-Long and Tish Gordon-Lee.

Apologies for absence: none

Minutes 4.2.19 Accepted and signed

Matters Arising

- a) **Trees** – planning permission from the Council was required. Henry had the forms which he would complete and submit as the agent of the PCC.
- b) **Grave Extension** – there had been no progress. A chance encounter with the person responsible, who usually lived abroad, strongly indicated that they were aware of the requirements detailed in the Diocesan solicitor's letter. However, they did not appear to have any intention of complying fully. The PCC was concerned that the unauthorised materials set a dangerous precedent which was unfair to those who did follow the regulations. Diane confirmed that, if necessary, these materials would be removed, as clearly explained in the letter.

Correspondence Received

- a) Marcus had received a letter of thanks from the Children's Society for the donation sent following the Christingle.
- b) Celina and Marcus had received an email from the Parish Council seeking access to trim foliage which was too close to overhead lines (yew near lychgate). Celina would attend when the work was being done.

Curate's Report

Sue reported that overall things were fine, with a particularly successful Mothering Sunday service. Other relevant items would be covered elsewhere.

Worship/Mission

a) **Wicken Praise** – numbers had dropped off and there were still significant numbers of families living in the village who had never come. Wickids were holding an Easter Treasure Hunt on Sunday 14.4.19 at 2pm at the Sports Club. We could possibly combine our Easter Egg Hunt with this so that participants would also receive an egg and the leaflet about Easter. We could get more eggs for Easter Sunday and arrange the hunt depending on the number of children at the service.

Agreed: Henry to ask Olivia, who helps with Wickids, for ideas to encourage children to attend Wicken Praise and to see if combining the two events would be acceptable.

b) **Church Cleaning** – work on the church would continue until Thursday 18.4.19. Understandably the church was very dusty from all the recent work so cleaning it before Easter Holy Communion was essential.

Agreed: Celina, Charlotte, Margaret, Tish and Carol, if available, to meet at 10.00am on Fri 19.4.19. Celina would also do the flowers for Easter then, as the church would not be open between then and Easter Sunday.

c) **Ascension Day** (30.5.19 commemorated on Sunday 2.6.19 at 11.00am) – it was hoped we might be able to make this a village event, possibly with the Wicken Village Community. Henry and Olivia had kindly agreed to host the celebrations in their garden, using one of the marquees.

Agreed: Celina to ask Fenlon Dunphy whether the WVC might participate in the event and to ask Mary Clarke if she would kindly make the traditional cake.

Fundraising/Social/Outreach

Social and Outreach were currently covered by the various services and hospitality. Akeley Wood Reception were to visit the church on 9.5.19. We had no specific fundraising events planned.

Agreed: all to consider ideas for fundraising for discussion at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The various accounts were tabled and discussed (attached)

a) **Accounts YTD 2019** – Celina would ask the Parish Council for their kind contribution to the grass-cutting (already agreed in principle).

b) **Parish Share** – the balance from last year not having been paid, Marcus suggested using the Gift Aid money topped up from the current account to make an initial contribution for this year of £1000. At June's meeting we would consider making the next payment from the School House account.

Agreed

c) **Collections and Attendance** – collections had improved so far this year. Attendances had been affected by the enforced move to the Village Hall, but had been particularly good on Mothering Sunday when we were back in church in the choir stalls.

d) **Electricity** – the heating appeared to be very efficient but the effect on the bills had yet to be determined.

e) **Fabric and Organ Funds** – John had noticed that the organ appeared to have been affected by the dust from the floor polishing. We would ask Andrew to take look and advise.

f) **Heating and Lighting** – the amount spent on the lighting was corrected to £8505. VAT would be reclaimable on both.

g) **School House** – the account still had a healthy balance following the boiler replacement. The trefoil detail in the roof would need to be blocked later in the year as it allowed squirrels in with consequent damage. This would be expensive because of difficult access.

Agreed: to thank Marcus for his continuing hard and time-consuming work as treasurer.

h) **Grass Cutting** – we could not afford to continue with the number of cuts made last year.

Agreed: to limit the number this year to ten.

i) **Marcus away April/May** -

Agreed – Marcus would leave a cheque for the appropriate amount for the remaining balance on the electrical work. Margaret would pay in the weekly collections.

Fabric

a) **Heating** – now fully complete and universally declared as marvellous. The controls were very simple but as many of us as possible should be given a demonstration.

b) **Floor Polishing** – looked very, very good and much better than expected, given its previous condition. The extensive amount of rotten wood had been fully replaced. The outstanding paperwork could be completed retrospectively.

c) **Lighting** – the work was well under way.

Agreed: in accordance with the faculty, to record with care all the memorial names on the lights, out of respect for those to whom they were dedicated and their long association with the church. A memorial plaque to be placed in the bell tower.

d) **Chancel Ceiling** – work on the lighting has revealed that some areas of the ceiling are in urgent need of repair. This work is likely to attract a grant.

Agreed: Diane to arrange a survey

e) **Church Path** – this will require a faculty. Although the cobbles are very hard to walk or push a buggy or wheelchair over, their heritage is important and valued. Hence the plan is to use all of them to line both sides of the new path which will be much more user-friendly and durable.

Agreed: Celina and Charlotte to pursue the work and all to discuss it with our fellow-villagers. Update and further consideration at the next meeting.

f) **Kitchen and Toilet** – the possible location and nature of these much-needed facilities was discussed. The necessary services must be determined before the work on the path is done.

Agreed: Diane to ask the Architect to come for a preliminary discussion (this will not attract a fee) and Charlotte kindly to draw up designs for a small kitchen which would blend in unobtrusively with the existing panelling.

Guttering – the Architect recommends black powder-coated aluminium. It may well be that the pipe can run vertically if any problem with the drainage is resolved.

Agreed: Celina to have the drainage checked and cleared as necessary.

Safeguarding – nothing to report

Opening Rota May-July

12.5.19	HC	09.30	Henry	Baptism pm
19.5.19	WP	“	Tish	R
26.5.19	HC	“	Celina	
2.6.19	Ascension	11.00	Henry	R (Manor)
9.6.19	HC	“	Margaret	
16.6.19	WP	“	Marcus	R
23.6.19	HC	“	Tish	
30.6.19	COSGROVE PATRONAL FESTIVAL 11.00AM			
7.7.19	MP	“	Henry	
14.7.19	HC	“	Tish	
21.7.19	WP	“	Celina	R
28.7.19	HC	“	Margaret	

AOB

None

Meetings and Events

3.6.19 PCC 7pm at Wicken House

12.8.19 PCC 7pm, venue TBA

Noted that Diane’s sabbatical will be from end July/early August until November.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm

Signed:

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Date:

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