

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WICKEN

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held at the church on 12 August 2019 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies for absence: Charlotte Yorke-Long

The meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes 3.6.19 Accepted and signed

Matters Arising

a) British Gas – to date, Marcus had not received the promised monthly bills.

b) Grave Extension – an email from the Chancellor's office had been received informing us that remedial work would probably be at our own expense (full text at annex A). However, it was now clear that the person concerned had definitely received the correspondence as the gravel had been replaced as requested, though regrettably the original gravel had merely been discarded in the churchyard. The Archdeacon had warned that removal of the memorial by the PCC could reflect badly on us. Similar graves had been installed before the change of regulations so keeping the unauthorised work would not create a clear precedent.

Agreed: Sue to ask the Chancellor if we can pay to have the shine on the granite toned down [not done in view of Margaret's findings];

Margaret to find out the likely cost;

Tish to reply to the email asking if, given that we know communication is getting through, they could kindly make one final request to the person concerned to tone down the granite together with thanks for replacing the gravel.

c) Ride and Stride 14.9.19

Agreed: Henry and Marcus to lock the valuable items in the Bell Tower in the week before the event; Henry to open the church on the day; Sue to check whether the church has signed up to take part/how to do it; Henry to put a poster on the notice board, copy to Tish for inclusion of details on the village website.

Correspondence Received

Marcus had received a leaflet from the Diocese giving a detailed breakdown of the cost of maintaining a priest in post.

Curate's Report

a) General remarks – although unable to visit very often recently, Sue had noted that attendances at Wicken Praise had dwindled, though no-one could suggest why. She had been given the date of the village BBQ, but almost everyone was unavailable so we could not offer to participate.

b) Harvest Supper/Festival – after discussion it was decided to try a fresh approach this year. We will hold the harvest supper in the village hall on Thursday 17.10.19, 6.30 for 7pm, with a fish and chip van (possibly Howe's, Little Horwood) attending. We would ask for donated apple desserts as usual and would run a bar. Tickets to cost £10, including glass of wine/beer/soft drink.

The harvest festival would be on Sunday 13.10.19 at 9.30am (HC).

Agreed: Celina to contact Howe's or other company to confirm details and book;

all to provide flowers, vegetables etc to decorate the church for harvest festival and children to be invited to bring traditional gifts to the service.

Worship/Mission

a) Wicken Praise – as previously noted, numbers were still down. It was hoped the pet service on 15.9.19 would be popular; suitable publicity was vital.

Agreed: Henry would get his sons to produce a flyer (for distribution by all) and would make sure Wickids are aware. Tish to put on village website.

b) Sound System – a recent funeral had highlighted the need for more of us to be able to operate the system. Recurrent problems with getting it to work properly had been traced to a faulty lead, which Alan had immediately replaced when kindly briefing a family member in time for the funeral. There was another small, new adjustment needed to ensure success but this was easily done and the system had been used again twice without a hitch.

Agreed: subject to confirmation by Alan (via Tish), to hold another training session after the service on 22.9.19 at about 10.30am. Attendees Henry, Marcus, Celina, Margaret and Keith (plus Charlotte if available). [NOTE subsequently found to be inconvenient, alternative date in hand.]

Fundraising/Social/Outreach

We had some promising events coming up and needed to ensure we gave them full publicity and made the most of them. We would discuss Christmas and New Year events at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The various accounts were tabled and discussed (attached)

a) Accounts YTD 2019 - £2000 had been transferred from the current account from the fabric fund as a temporary measure. It would be repaid as soon as possible.

b) Charity Commission - "Wicken in Need" and "Prowse Charity" details of income and expenditure 2018 had been lodged on line.

c) Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) – VAT refund claims for heating (£1415.01) and lighting (£3793.20) would be made (thus boosting the current account).

d) Return of Parish Finances Jan-Dec 2018 – completed and sent to Diocese.

e) Average Sunday Attendances (ASA) – return sent for 2018 (informs parish share 2020) = 15.775. This figure has been achieved through the set calculation and is significantly more than the previous year. This year, however, attendances appear to be dwindling and it is essential that we do all we can to reverse this trend.

f) Parish Share - £5420 outstanding for 2019.

Agreed: consider at next meeting.

g) School House – it had proved impossible to fit trunking to all the cables in the roof and therefore the only solution to prevent rodent intrusion was to fill in the trefoil holes.

The tenant had asked if it might be possible to replace the carpets which have become flattened by the required industrial cleaning between lets.

Agreed: Celina to visit and obtain quotes as necessary.

Agreed: to thank Marcus for his continuing work as treasurer.

Fabric

a) Memorial Plaque – this had now arrived and was agreed to be excellent. It could not be hung on the wall without a faculty.

Agreed: to thank Charlotte for obtaining the plaque and to defer the faculty application until Diane's return from sabbatical.

b) Church Path – noted that we couldn't proceed with the path until definite plans for the kitchen (which would require a pipe to be laid underneath the path) had also been agreed. Although Diane had sent the paperwork for consideration at the DAC meeting on 23 July, nothing had been heard subsequently.

Agreed: Celina to chase

c) Kitchen and Toilet – we did not know if the Architect had provided advice about kitchen drainage. At the open meeting on 14 July, it was suggested that the kitchen would be less visible and better placed at the back of the church (on the right as viewed from the altar). It had also been suggested that the stone from the (now redundant) shed could be used if the toilet were to be built over the old boiler house, which would significantly reduce the cost and allow direct access via the bell tower. Charlotte is drawing up some plans to see if a small kitchen could fit in this space. Otherwise no further progress but the PCC will need to make a decision before the faculty for the path is requested because of the services (see above).

d) Guttering – no progress

e) Chancel Ceiling – no progress

f) Trees – i) we had now received permission from the DAC. The required public notices had been posted on 10 August (valid for 28 days) and it was now necessary to submit the faculty application. Additionally, the proposal to plant a stand of three variegated holly trees beside the long wall at the same time as the felling was undertaken was discussed.

Agreed: Celina to obtain a quotation for the felling work, including the likely duration and to pass the information to Tish. Also to obtain a quotation for the tree-planting.

ii) a new neighbour had enquired about the PCC pruning the ancient stand of yew trees in the churchyard. This was discussed and would be given further consideration.

g) Door curtain

Agreed: to proceed with the metal curtain pole and to ask Charlotte to obtain a new quotation as necessary.

h) Overgrown hedge/weeds by War Memorial

Agreed: Marcus to get the area tidied up.

Safeguarding – nothing to report

Opening Rota Aug 18 – October 27

18.8.19	Marcus	WP
25.8.19	BENEFICE SERVICE FURTHO	
1.9.19	Celina	MP
8.9.19	Celina	HC
15.9.19	Henry & Marcus	WP – PET SERVICE
22.9.19	Celina	HC
29.9.19	Tish	MP 5 th SUNDAY
6.10.19	Margaret	MP
13.10.19	Henry	HC HARVEST
20.10.19	Celina (or Tish if available)	WP
27.10.19	Celina	HC

AOB

None

Meetings and Events

17.10.19 6.30 for 7pm at the hall - Harvest Supper

21.10.19 PCC 7pm at the church

9.12.19 PCC 7pm at the church

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.00pm

Signed:..... Date:.....

Annex A

“The Chancellor has directed that the PCC should consider whether they really wish to pursue the removal of the memorial, particularly because there are kerbstones on either side of the grave. The Chancellor has stated that the cost of this is likely to fall to the PCC. If the PCC decide they wish to proceed to have the memorial removed, the Chancellor will then give further directions. Mrs B, or indeed any other family members, would need to be contacted and offered the chance to show cause as to why the memorial should not be removed. Because Mrs B's address is not known, the Chancellor has stated that it may be necessary to put an advertisement in the local newspaper

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