

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, EMMER GREEN

Minutes of Meeting 05-2019 of the PCC held on Tuesday 19th Nov 2019 at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre

Present

1. Rev. Derek Chandler (Chair), (DC), Bob Abel (BA) (Treasurer); Mark Burton (MB), Felicity Chapman (FC), Richard Cunningham (RC), Wendy Howell (WH), David Howell (Churchwarden), Roger Moore (RM)

Welcome and Prayers.

2. DC opened the meeting with a reading from Mark 8 dealing with the feeding of the 4000 taken from "The Message" Eugene Peterson's translation which is written in more accessible language. PCC members reflected on the reading, following which, DC said a prayer for all those in leadership roles and in particular the new Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham and the nominated Archdeacon, Steve Pullin.

Apologies for Absence

3. Sandra Rice, Susie Downer

Minutes of meeting 04 -2019

4. The minutes of meeting 04/2019 held on Tuesday 10th Sep 2019, with an amendment to para 20 dealing with the appointment of Revd. Martin Beukes (Sec Note: revised minutes distributed to PCC Members), were accepted and signed.

Actions and Matters Arising

5. All items under Actions and Matters Arising were covered by Agenda items.

Health and Safety

6. RM reported that the Health and Safety Policy had been reviewed and updated and signed by Revd Derek Chandler.
7. DH reported that Keith Seaman had tripped and fallen in the Choir Vestry and action needs to be taken to remove the trip hazard.
8. DH had proposed to clear the Church's gutters with the aid of an assistant. Douglas Rae had raised concerns about the safety of working at height from a ladder. RM suggested that a cost should be obtained from a contractor for the work. Following discussion it was agreed:

- the lower gutters around the Parish Centre could be cleared by DH with appropriate assistance. Suitable personal protective equipment to be worn eg hard hat
 - for high Church gutters costings from contractors to be obtained
9. FC raised the issue of the safety of the organ pipes. FC explained that the pipes did not appear to be fixed and moved when choir members leant on them. FC indicated that Guy Watt had offered to construct a retaining frame but was unlikely to be able to do this work in the near future. As it was a potential hazard it was agreed it needed to be investigated and action taken.

Safeguarding

10. BA noted that a report on Safeguarding had been distributed to PCC Members. Members expressed their thanks to Joy Abel for all the work she has put into safeguarding.
11. The appointment of Debbie Burton as the DBS checking officer was proposed and agreed unanimously.

Finance

12. BA, with the agreement of the meeting, tabled a paper on the current financial position and options for the way ahead. BA explained the changes in income and expenditure and the rationale for the proposed budgets.
13. BA proposed the following remedies with the aim of reducing the deficit:
- Raising Hall rental (regular users) in line with inflation since 2018 to £16/hour . Raising Hall rental for Guides/Brownies/Rainbows from summer 2020 to £10/hour [together raises £790][*BA indicated subsequently that the latter figure should have been £9.50, not £10, but this did not affect the total raised*]
 - Raising Hall rental for weekend (occasional uses) from £15 to £18. [raises £810]
 - Reducing Charitable Giving (from general funds) from £3000 to £2000.
 - Shaving maintenance budgets to minimum (rather than average) for recent years [saves £2170]
14. Following discussion: the PCC agreed unanimously the remedies identified in Para 13. These would reduce the budget deficit to around £2250.

15. DH accepted an action to produce a costed maintenance budget.

Action DH

Communications

16. RM reported on a recent meeting (present were: Felicity, Hayley, Chris and RM) to review comms issues and the new website. A few technical issues were raised which Felicity and Chris would progress, the need for a new person to deal with Facebook to take over from Zoe was discussed and the importance of continuity for the Service sheet when Hayley will be away during Derek's sabbatical.

Charitable Giving

17. DH noted that a report and recommendations had been circulated to members and the report was commended for agreement by PCC. The report and recommendations were accepted unanimously. DC thanked all those involved for their work.

Purchase of projector etc

18. DC thanked MB for all the work he had put into creating the specification and costing for the AV upgrade. In the light of the financial difficulties facing the church PCC members were asked to give their view on what should be done. Following discussion it was agreed:
- a spare bulb and filter should be purchased
 - MB should seek to identify the cost and availability of a "like for like" replacement of the current projector as a precaution
 - MB should seek alternative quotes for the full specification to understand what might be needed in the longer term

3rd Space

19. DH tabled a review paper. There was discussion of how 3rd Space fits into other church activities and services eg Busy Bees and COGS. The clear message is the 3rd Space is a whole family worship activity not child centred. DH explained that the plans for next year will use the book "Side by Side with God" by Yvonne Morris as the basis.

Alpha

20. RC reported on Alpha. He noted that it had been led by Sandra, John, Eileen and Richard with support from Hayley and Derek Chandler. He

explained that standard Alpha material had been used. In the future, he said there were plans to have an Alpha reunion meeting.

Caversham Park Review

21. DC said that the Report on the Review of the Caversham Park Church would be available shortly. Following discussions at the Standing Committee it had been agreed to pencil in a provisional PCC meeting for Tuesday 10th December in the event PCC action was needed.

Highdown School

22. DH reported that St Barnabas had been approached by Highdown School to be involved in the teaching of Year 7 children as part of their curriculum dealing with Ethics. The items involved would be: Church and the Church history and in particular the history of St Barnabas; Christianity; and what does it mean to be a Christian. DH explained that examples such as Street Pastor would illustrate the latter. The total commitment would be 10 classes of 25.

Sabatical

23. DC explained that he would be taking a sabbatical next year between probably mid May until mid August the planning has not yet been finalised. Authority has been granted rolling over from the sabbatical delayed from 2019. DC explained that he would not be requesting any personal financial contribution from the PCC toward the sabbatical.

Churches together in Caversham Pentecost Proposal

24. It is proposed that St Barnabas Church together with Churches together in Caversham hold an open service at Pentecost on Sunday May 31st 2020 and that St Barnabas makes a contribution of £100 to the costs involved.
25. The PCC agreed unanimously to the proposals
26. The PCC further agreed by a majority of three to two with two abstentions not to hold services on that day at St Barnabas Church

AOB

27. DH reported that agreement had been reached with Grace church's youth worker to hold "Hot Chocolate Drop Ins" at the Parish Centre from January on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4.30. This service is aimed at Highdown School pupils.
28. DC informed the PCC there would be no Wednesday morning 10am communion on New Year's Day 2020.

PCC 05-2019

Future Dates

29. 19th Nov; 11th Feb; AGM 22nd March