**The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Marcham with Garford**

**Minutes of the committee meeting held on**

**Wednesday 26 October 2022**

**Present**

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| Ruth Atkins (RA)  Tamsin Gilbert (TG)  Chrystal Poon (CP)  Bryan Eccles (BE)  Carolyn Whiting (CW)  Caroline Manders (CM)  Sue Lawton (SL) | | Rev’ d Nick Weldon (NW)  Chris Nutman (CN)  Barney Stevens (BS)  Alison Lyndon (AL)  Danni Grady (DG)  Pamela Carter Moore (PCM) | |
| **Item** |  | | **Action** |
| 1.  1.1  1.2  1.3 | **Welcome and opening prayer and Bible reading**  The meeting started at 19:50  NW read from 2 Peter 3 v8-9 and gave his reflections.  PCC members shared their prayers and NW closed them. | |  |
| 2.  2.1 | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies were noted from: Anne Southwell, Tim Jack, David Lunn and Neil Rowe.  (John Boardman) | |  |
| 3.  3.1 | **Conflicts of interest**  There were no declarations of interest. | |  |
| 4.  4.1 | **Approval of minutes from the meeting held on 28 September 2022**  The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record by NW. | |  |
| 5.  5.1  5.2 | **Matters Arising**  A letter has been written to Cathie Little from NW thanking her for all her contributions to the finances and budgets.  Church layout work is still with Christian Randall (architect) | |  |
| 6.  6.1  6.2  6.3  6.4  6.5  6.6  6.7  6.8  6.9 | **Financial update -** BE  John Scoble and BE are making great progress on the accounts.  Financial information for August was shared at the meeting.  Regular donations and non-regular are slightly lower than the same period last year.  Discussion about whether to move more of the church finances into investments due to higher interest rates. 25% of funding has to be kept for church expenditure. **Action: BE to review this.**  Using more gas (quantity) than we did before we replaced the boiler and the pandemic. TG is discussing this with Charles Gaisford. We currently have no smart meter and no success with asking for one.  (TG arrived)  In summary, the accounts are in good shape and we are in control.  BE is starting on the accounts for 2023.  Parish Share (NW)  Information was shared prior to the meeting. Our share is £69,175 for 2023.  The Parish Share contribution was proposed by CN and seconded by PCM. The PPC then approved this. | | BE  TG |
| 7.  7.1  7.2  7.3 | **Fabric update**  Church path  Still waiting for a more detailed from Mr Mansbridge, have undertaking some improvement work at the bottom of the driveway.  Flagpole  Consider having a permanent flagpole. The cost is £200 for a feasibility study and £2-3k for the flagpole and installation. Concerns were expressed about the need for this and the ongoing costs of replacement flags. Most PCC members were not positive at present about this due to costs.  Boiler service  This has taken place. | |  |
| 8.  8.1 | **Marcham War Memorial – possible move to the churchyard**  The Parish Council is keen on this idea. Where it is currently situated is impacting on the condition of it. It’s a listed structure and a consultation would need to be carried out by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would fund it being moved. Areas have been suggested and a faculty would be needed and an archaeological assessment. As a PCC we are positive about this and NW will share this with the Parish Council. | | NW |
| 9.  9.1  9.2 | **North facing seating experiment -** NW  Held three services with the seating in this arrangement. Majority of feedback suggests people prefer the ‘normal’ seating arrangements after initially liking the changes. Some did like the sense of feeling more together.  Conclusion, the experiment was worth doing periodically but not on a permanent basis. | |  |
| 10.  10.1  10.2  10.3  10.4  10.5 | **St. Luke’s**  - CW  Planning to change the look of the porch to make it more welcoming. This will include more useful information being shared.  Pilgrimage walk took place with Mark Newman earlier in the month. Would like to do this as a yearly walk. Mark Newman was thanked for the background work he had one prior to the walk and leading the walk.  Would like one service in the morning and one in the evening once a month. This will be discussed further as discussions will be taking place about services at All Saints. The main issue would be staffing it. More conversation needs to take place about this with NW, CW and PCM.  Would like a more formal path to the church to improve the access and this is being looked at. TG suggested getting a DAC visit to the site first. It was agreed to have a DAC visit first.  Will be approaching the farmer about the possibly of a toilet at the church as would need access across his land for the water. | | NW, CW, PCM  NW, NR, CP, CW |
| 11.  11.2 | **Safeguarding update**  There are two on-going and one new safeguarding (the Diocese has taken this up on our behalf) issues which are in hand. | |  |
| 12.  11.1 | **Health and Safety**  No issues to report. | |  |
| 13.  13.1  13.2  13.3 | **AOB**  Foundation Governor vacancy – Tracey Hibberd has expressed her interest. PCC approved putting her forward as Foundation Governor.  Ministerial development review – NW is going through his at the moment and the Diocese oversee it.  The Bible course is ongoing with 30-35 people attending. All homegroups are represented. | |  |
| 14. | The meeting closed in prayer. | |  |
|  | The meeting closed at 21: 34 | |  |

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 30 November 2022** (not the 23rd)