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

**Wednesday 26th July 2023 – 7.45pm St Luke’s Garford**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Revd Nick Weldon (NW) Tony Carter (TC) Tim Jack (TJ)

Chrystal Poon (CP) Carolyn Whiting (CW) Bryan Eccles (BE)

Catherine Mentzel (CMe) Caroline Manders (CM) Ali Lyndon (AL)

Barney Stevens (BS) Chris Nutman (CN) Danni Grady (DG)

Jonathan Boardman (JB) Neil Rowe (NR) – 8pm

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| *No.* | *Item* |
| **1.****2.****3.4.****5.** | **Welcome, Bible reading and opening prayer: NW Acts 9 v1-19Apologies for absence –** Tamsin Gilbert, Ruth Atkins, Sue Lawton, David Lunn, John Scoble**Conflicts of interest** - none**Minutes of the meeting of 28th June 2023–** confirmed as an accurate record.**Actions from 26.5.23 meeting:**8.2 – Mission partners subcommittee – meeting next week, JG to chair.10.6 – Faculties for light and water at St. Luke’s – on agenda today.**Actions from 28.6.23 meeting**8 – social media policy – update in October from AL, RA.**Matters arising –** none |
| **6.** **6.1****6.2** **6.3** | **Financial update: BE** * General update – key financial information circulated. We are running a deficit budget and we are behind even this. TC suggested we need to invest some of our balance as interest rates now improving.

Action: NW to ask standing committee to investigate investing some of our capital.TC asked how we increase our income. NW explained we are planning a service to encourage giving from the congregation. Could consider how we ask for donations from the community. Sub committee to be formed to take this forward.Action: NW to discuss with wardens and BE and form subcommittee.* Insurance – renewal due 29/7. EIG and Trinitas gave quotes, Trinitas is cheaper, but EIG have been good and supportive in the past. But will cost over £2000 over 3 yrs. EIG will requote but will increase the excess from £250 – £1000. Discussion around whether spending more is worth it for a better company, consensus was to go with EIG, but if it is more than £500 will confirm via email to PCC when the new quote is in.
* Gas contract – gas contract increasing from £1,500/year to between £4,100-£4,400. Love energy savings broker have advised us to fix now before the winter as they are likely to go up before Feb/March next year when our current deal is up. PCC agrees to fix now.
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| **7.** **7.1** **7.2** **7.3** **7.4** **7.5** **7.6** **7.7** **7.8** **7.9**  | **Fabric update*** AS video projector – starting to get noisy and getting dimmer. Servicing unlikely to help, has lasted 13 years. Quote coming from API communications for discussion at September meeting. CW – needs to be compliant with reordering project. NW asked BS to attend site visit with API. Contingency is portable projector.
* AS churchyard wall – two insurance quotes, work to repair starts tomorrow.
* Genesis one project – moving forward. Finished outside teaching area today with wooden benches. Considering replacing white marquee with stretch tent which should last 20 years. Awaiting sign off at the council as change to plan.
* St Lukes church yard lighting – Statement of significance and statement of need circulated. Discussed switch – decided on normal switch rather than fob. Switch will be in the porch. PCC agreed to apply for a faculty.

Action: NR to supply CW, AL, TC picture of light*Chris Nutman left** Water – Neil Walker (farmer) happy to supply water to portaloo which will be sited on farmland, therefore no faculty needed. Also, there will be water supply here. Neil Walker will connect to water supply, we will fund portaloo. Cost is approx. £1500. Servicing is £20/visit, attend 3-5 times a year.

Action: CW to investigate options for portaloo*Tim Jack left** AS reordering project – subcommittee meeting Monday evening. They will decide on final design for kitchen and costings, stage height and access and costings, and grant application for discussion at next PCC meeting. Project can be completed in phases, would be good to complete 1 stage.
* Lime tree at AS will be managed by tree surgeon and paid for by Highways as it is on their land.
* Stones at west end of AS to be assessed tomorrow, have deteriorated.
* Path at St Luke’s, disability officer will be attending to assess.
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| **8.****8.1****8.2** **8.3** **8.4** | **St Luke’s: CW*** Concerned about church bell – was assessed 4 yrs ago and was advised to have bell turned in 3 yrs.

Action: CW will ask Whites to return to re-assess and quote* Mice still a problem, Heather is replacing some of the damaged linen. CW would like to offer her payment. PCC agreed to this, but unlikely Heather will accept this.
* CW requested her email go on the MADnews, this was agreed.
* Keyboard belongs to Ben, has taken it to Suffolk. Don’t have an organ / piano here. To discuss again at September meeting.

Action: CW to consider costings for a new organ / piano |
| **9.**  | **Communion distributers at services** (additions to the current list) Carolyn Whiting, Pamela and Tony Carter, Adam and Danni Grady, Rob Finch. |
| **10.** | **Safeguarding update: RA**RA sent apologies for this evening but advised there is no change to the policy or safeguarding situation, 2 ongoing cases.TC asked what it means to have a safeguarding agreement. It is an agreement between and individual and the diocese to keep the individuals and vulnerable adults and children safe and is monitored by our safeguarding team.  |
| **11.** | **Health & Safety**NR: Should we have a limit on number of children signing up to holiday club? NW – can’t breach capacity and adult:child ratios. AL checked DBS checks all going through for volunteers.Action: NW to discuss numbers with Jill Rowe |
| **12.**  | **A.O.B.**Parish share is decreasing slightly as NW is taking on the role of Associate Area Dean.  |
| **13.** | **Closing prayer -NW** |

**PCC next meeting:** Wednesday 27th September