

Minutes of PCC Meeting – Friday February 12th 2021 – 7.30pm

held on Zoom due to Corona-virus restrictions on meeting in person

Attendees Revd Canon P Reiss (chair), N Barlow, H Campbell, R Battersby, B Kenny, B Arundel, D Bonser, G Minshull, K Bulcock, M Bulcock

Apologies L Westhead, S Glancy, K Smith, Margaret Forster, A Mather, Steve Hobson, R Heron

Unable to attend: M Topham, S Wilson, J Allsopp

1. Opening Prayers The Chair led in prayer using the Collect for the week
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Dec 8th 2020 - These were accepted as a true record of the meeting
3. Matters Arising
 - a) AJ's PAT Testing – RB confirmed that this had now been paid. PR informed that AJs has been closed since January due to Covid restrictions
 - b) Gift to S Maguire – PR confirmed that the voucher had been delivered to Simon
 - c) Standing Committee .. St James' member – PR apologised that he had not had time to discuss this with KB and BK
4. Team Rector Report –
 - a) **Corona-virus impact** – PR reported that the Bishop wanted PCCs to make a decision about re-opening for Public Worship – if they were not already open, after the government announcements due on Feb 15th and 22nd. A PCC meeting would therefore be held, as previously arranged on Feb 24th to discuss this.
There was discussion about what an updated Risk Assessment would need. PR said he would send round the draft in time for the next meeting.
Issues include how to be more directive and ordered without causing offence; (BK commented that we are told what to do in shops etc so most will accept the rules) Should the PCC make FFP2 masks a requirement or an expectation? If so should the PCC buy some for those who may not come with one?
PR thanked those who had helped develop the ideas for the Risk Assessment.
Should more popular services be “ticketed” with people booking in in advance.
A Risk Assessment is only as good as the actions taken on it.
This will be discussed in light of government announcements at next meeting.
Can we ask whether people have had a vaccine and make a note.
 - b) **Worship and Lent** - PR reported that the Team continues to offer the online services (with more children involved now) and the Worship at Home.
For Lent there will be a Team Lent Course (“Let us pray”) which will be delivered to those not online and also there will be a chance to join in Morning Prayer online.
Lent cards and a letter have been sent to most of the electoral roll
PR commented that it is also vital that we all continue to offer pastoral support to each other and to those who are more isolated and needy
There was a question whether we might consider outdoor services if indoor restrictions remain.
 - c) **Diocesan Plans** – BK, GM and DB reported back from Deanery Synod – disappointed that the particular questions asked by the parish seemed to have been blunted in the checklist of “issues” (though the questions will be included in an appendix for the

diocese. Others felt the Archdeaconry meeting had not been helpful in terms of encouraging dialogue. There is a sense that this is being done to us anyway. **It was agreed that the questions from the PCC / parish should also be sent direct to the diocese** so that our voice is heard.

It was recognised that there is a significant financial problem meaning that there will be a reduction in paid posts. It was commented that some feel there are too many posts at the centre. It was recognised that this is also a national issue, but maybe in the light of all the covid uncertainties now is not when big decisions about structural changes should be happening – or is it urgent?

There are questions about ecumenical involvement, the recognition that Teams take time to form and cannot just be expected to work, the lack of mention of how bureaucracy will be reduced / whether buildings should close and parishes should merge), and the nature of a Mission Community and how parishes would be put together and how a Mission Community leader would operate.

PR reported that although he found the process not very positive he believed that the parish and the Team could find themselves in a larger group and even with reduced stipendiaries the parishes could continue to flourish given our current experience of being part of a larger Team. However there is a challenge to grow local leaders in our churches and who we could support in such a role.

5. Finances – RB had provided the figures in advance. He commented on the good work of the 100 Club in raising £3440 for Parish funds and thanks were expressed to GM for all his work in this.
6. Fabric Report – In the absence of SH, PR took the Council through a number of issues.
 - a) **Allotments** – PR reported that £1345 had been spent on the Garden of Remembrance paths, and £1500 on levelling for the allotments. **It was agreed to spend a further £3200 on building the allotments** – 32 @ 12ft by 4ft but built in 24ft strips with a split in the middle. This would include the soil and meshing and road-core for the surrounding area to make paths. This to come from the grant and using £1000 from the first 20 allotment licences
The Allotment licence as provided for the Council was agreed
It was commented that there needs to be space for a fire to burn what needs burning, and also that there will need to be monitoring of the garden waste so that the churchyard does not become where everyone brings their waste. Clearly with more people coming there will be some issues. PR and DB raised issue of two graves which have had stones put round them as a ‘boundary’ and these will need to be removed. PR to write to the families concerned.
Thanks were expressed to SH and to Jean Rigby for the work done, including the grant application. The Grant also provides money towards a new mower. PR reported that the figure for this is likely to be nearer £1500, and that Eddie has donated the mower he had bought to the Church Yard, meaning that the £425 raised for mowers could go towards the new ride-on mower.
 - b) **Garden of Remembrance re-planting** PR also reported that there had been a meeting with a landscape designer, Su Jefferies, and she had offered to design and help implement a planting for the central bed in the Garden of Remembrance, but

with a wider plan for the surrounding area. She had recommended the removal of some saplings near to the road (no TPOs). Her fee would be £450, and then there would be a cost to removing the trees and a cost for the plants being proposed. BK commented that probably there would be donations towards plants. PK wondered if an appeal could be got ready for Mothering Sunday towards plants. **It was agreed (BK proposed – GM seconded) that we should employ Su Jefferies services**, and also look for grants to help towards the costs – eg from Horticultural Society. Jean Rigby is willing to help with applying for grants for this work.

There is a common vision that the grounds of the church should be used and beautified for the benefit of the community but also to bring people in, and to offer space and activity for the improvement of mental and social health. Allotments in one area, more formal garden in another, ground-keeping and a wilded area are all part of this diversity.

- c) **Boiler and other costs at St Anne's** SH, HC, PR with Michael Arundel had had a meeting with Martin Proffitt who is a fund-raiser for non-profit organisations. He was hopeful that a substantial grant could be found (Veolia? / Viridor?) to go towards a new boiler, as well as towards the clock repairs, some repair to windows and the restoration of the lych-gates. He has worked successfully with the Barlow for grants. NB asked if the success at the Barlow might be a negative when we come to apply being so close. His costs are £36 per hour and a bid might involve 35 hours work. There was broad support for this but the Council asked for some Terms of Engagement so that there is a maximum cost, and some idea of what is involved. Can this be provided to the next meeting.
 - a. SH is concerned that the boiler is now very uncertain.

- 7. Team Council Report – The Team has adopted the same logo which the parish is using and NB has developed new images which include the logo with pictures of the six churches. It helps give a unity to what we do while allowing for the diversity of the parishes.

- 8. Any other Business – Date of next meeting Feb 24th 7.30 (Zoom)

For next meeting

Risk Assessment and Opening (or not) for Public Worship

Terms of Engagement for M Proffitt