

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at the Duchy Barn

Present: Peter Wilson (PW), Sharon Sarson (SS), John Reed (JR), Helen Sims (HS), Lynne Al-Sad (LAS), Gabbie Watson (GW), Adrian Beckingsale (AB), and Roger Newberry (RN)

In Attendance: Rev. Phillip Young

1. PW welcomed Adrian and Roger to the PCC, who had both been co-opted following admission to the Electoral Roll, and JR gave them various documents relevant to them becoming a Church Trustee.

This was followed by prayers that were led by Phillip.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th March were approved without amendment, and there were no matters arising not already on the Agenda.

3. APCM: It was agreed that the APCM went satisfactorily, and no changes were felt necessary to the future format.

4. Activity leadership:

- (i) Safeguarding: PW stated that there was still a vacancy for the role of Safeguarding Officer, and the fact that there had been a recent incident within the Deanery, as reported by Area Dean Philip Ritchie, only emphasised the urgent need for a candidate in Dedham. Meanwhile, the two Churchwardens remain as the point of contact, should any issue arise.
- (ii) Friends of Dedham: AB volunteered to be the PCC representative on the Friends Committee.
- (iii) Delt: JR had volunteered to be the PCC representative on the Delt Committee.
- (iv) Duchy Barn: With Vee no longer on the PCC, JR would liaise with Colin Biggins regarding a PCC representative.

5. Finance: JR had circulated members with the Quarter 1 Management Accounts, and the Finance Committee had met and were satisfied with the results at this early stage. The General Fund had generated a surplus of £1,322 despite Income being down 10% on 2023, and Overheads down 9% on last year. JR expected Income in Q2 to be higher than last year, as late income and new donors were boosting the Giving. The Parish Share was being paid at the “Hard Target” rate, 5.9% above last year, until finance performance could be assessed later in the year.

Parish Magazine advertising bills for 2024/25 were going out soon, and should generate close to £20k.

The Organ Appeal Fund had reached £304.6k with one last Grant of £9k to come. £64k had been paid out on dismantling and Stage payments in Q1, leaving £167.6k left in the fund at 31st March.

It was proposed by LAS and seconded by AB, that SS should become a signatory on the Church Bank Account. Carried unanimously.

6. Children and Family Worker: PW informed the meeting that a candidate had come forward to fill the post covering Dedham for 3 days p.w., and was to be interviewed on the 16th May.

7. Fabric Update: PW gave a report on the following projects.

- (i) Organ: Nicholson & Co were progressing well, but the timing of installation was under review, due to the issues raised in the report from the Bat Conservation Trust. PW was working with all the parties in order to meet the deadlines agreed with Nicholson’s and the Organ Committee. PW reminded the meeting that this was a “Capital Project”, and speculation as to how much surplus there was going to be on completion, and how it will be distributed was a PCC decision, and that it was premature to make a judgement on any anticipated surplus. JR had agreed to provide clarity on spending once the Chairman of the Organ Committee had returned from vacation, but there would be sufficient funds to meet the anticipated costs.

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- (ii) Windows & Masonry: The situation with the Organ in (i) may well have an impact on this major capital project. There had been another decline of the submitted Faculty by the Diocese, and the costs of the glazing and the masonry work appear to have risen. PW is in contact with the Architect, and he has been given instructions to resolve the latest problems to avoid there being any further delays, and be more specific on costing.
 - (iii) The delivery of the Bell ropes was expected to be imminent.
8. Churchyard: Both Joe Preston and Richard Dean are going to be working at reducing the growth within the Churchyard, caused by the recent weather conditions. A new strimmer has been purchased to assist around the gravestones.
9. Any Other Business:
- (i) Holy Communion: PCC members gave their views on the taking of the sacrament. There was general support for a return to distribution at the altar rail, as long as there was sufficient provision for those who found it difficult to locate to the altar, as well as those who wished to receive the sacrament in the pew. The two Missioners would come up with a plan, including aspects of the wafer and the wine which complied with the current Guidelines. The PCC unanimously agreed that only gluten free wafers should be provided to avoid any dietary problems.
 - (ii) RN asked for a working party to help with sorting out the shed, and he will organise a future date.
 - (iii) The Churchwardens weekly meeting would in future be held on a Monday morning, and they had agreed for Deb Turner to work all her office hours on Monday, rather than Tuesday and Thursday mornings. JR raised the point that the Office postbox would need to be emptied between the two Monday's.

10. **Future PCC meeting dates:**

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th July** and further meetings would be held on 24th September, 12th November, 14th January and 18th March 2025

The Meeting closed at 8.45 with prayers from Phillip