

Minutes of the Dedham Parochial Church Council

Held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at the Duchy Barn

Present: Sharon Sarson (SS), Ruth Higginson (RH), John Reed (JR), Lynne Al-Sad (LAS), Helen Sims (HS), Adrian Beckingsale (AB), Roger Berry (RB), Margaret Kitson (MK), Antony Watson (AW) and Robert Smith (RS)

In Attendance: Peter Wilson (PW) for Item 2 only.

SS opened the meeting with prayers

1. Apologies from Gabbie Watson and the Rev. Phillip Young
2. Fabric Report on the Windows: Before the meeting, PW had circulated the PCC members with a report on the current status of the Windows project, containing a list of current issues, the latest Auravision pricing for the first three phases to run from September 2025 to the end of 2026 at an estimated cost of £60,880, and four different options that could now be considered by the PCC. Additionally, PW outlined the current monies raised and/or pledged, and a list of other potential sources including Charity grants.
PW was thanked for his detailed report and recommendations, before he left the meeting so that the PCC could discuss the project further, and the members agreed that more information was needed to define the relationship between glazing and masonry aspects.
However, there was sufficient information available, to enable a Resolution to be proposed by RS and seconded by AB confirming that the PCC agreed to approve Phase 1 within the above, standing at £20,377 excluding scaffolding costs.
3. The Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 22nd April 2025 were approved without amendment.
4. Matters Arising:
 - (i) It was confirmed that there was not going to be additional Car Parking restrictions in the High Street.

- (ii) Members were pleased to see the re-introduction of the donation plate by stewards at our Services.
- (iii) RH was thanked for obtaining a suitable table for Wedding Service registration purposes.
- (iv) SS confirmed that the application regarding robing in 10 (ii) at the last meeting had been resolved.

5. Safeguarding:

RB confirmed that from mid-June his role of Safeguarding Officer would be moving ahead, and outlined the new Diocesan Parish Safeguarding Dashboard available online, and this would bring all parishes up to a simplified level of standard.

6. Finance:

JR had circulated the Accounts and Finance report for the Quarter One Management Accounts. The General Fund had made a small surplus, with c £32k received and spent in total. Total income was up 5% on 2024, and overall expenses and Parish Share up 8%.

Total funds, including Restricted and Designated funds, held by the Church rose by £8,341 to £448,928 at 31st March.

Apart from some concern over the lack of fund raising planned for 2025 (ex Big Breakfast), JR felt that the financial position at present was stable, but may face more headwinds as the year progresses.

7. Churchyard Review:

RS had agreed to undertake the Churchyard inspection and complete the survey at the end of June, and had already identified some headstones, etc that needed attention.

8. Eco Church Gold Award:

AB had circulated a paper prior to the meeting regarding the first category of the Eco Church Survey in respect of a potential Eco Gold Award. AB had had a trial run at completing the survey, and felt a written policy for "Creation Care" within our Church would be more than helpful.

Members expressed their gratitude to AB for the work entailed in getting this far.

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9. Parish Magazine Advertising:

Sara Marshall had indicated that she would like to be relieved of the work in administering the Magazine advertising, and the PCC agreed that JR should look to find a replacement via the Magazine/Church Chimes.

10. Faculty-Memorial for the Everett family:

An application form had been submitted by Nigel Everett to the PCC for their approval to a Faculty being sought to enable the replacement of an existing headstone containing additional family members names. This Petition was approved.

11. Deanery Synod:

JR reported on items from the recent Synod meeting, where Rev John Saxon was formally appointed Area Dean at a Commissioning Service. Members were reminded that the annual Tendring Show was to be held on 29th June, and the Deanery were encouraging people to be present and involved.

12. AOB:

There were no substantive items raised, but the Lay Chair did agree to take on board the ad hoc comments that were made.

Date of Next Meeting: **Tuesday 22nd July** at 7.30 p.m. in the Duchy Barn.

