

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WYMONDHAM ABBEY with SPOONER ROW

Registered Charity Number 1130495

MINUTES of meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2023 in St Benedicts at 5.30pm

Present: Fr Christopher Davies (Fr C), Jim Hartley (JH), Andrew Naylor (AN), Chris Grant (CG) taking notes, Kay Dorling (KD), Alex Perry (AP).

- 1 **Welcome and Prayer** Action
Fr C led us in prayer.
- 2 **Apologies** – received from Brian Randall (BR), Barbara Randall (BaR), Philip Aldred (PA), Catherine Mack (CM).
- 3 **Minutes of last meeting** held on 5 December 2022, correction 11c should be £25,000, otherwise were agreed as a correct record.
- 4 **Matters arising**
 - It was agreed that use of St Benedicts could be offered as an option to wedding bookings for £25 / hour but only for small family gathering around the service and not as a full reception venue. The public would still have free access to use WC.
 - The cost of obtaining a Barclaycard for use by PA and others to pay for Abbey purchases was not worth the monthly fee of £30 or more and we would continue to use private credit cards where necessary and reclaim expenses to be paid quickly by bank transfer.
- 5 **Mission/Outreach:**
 - a. **Baby and Toddler Group** – A compliment had been posted on social media from a ‘Norwich Playgroups’ unofficial inspector who visited anonymously and was most impressed by what she had seen. Ask Lorna if she knows the source that we can repost on Facebook? FrC
 - b. **Warm in Wymondham** – Fridays have not been particularly busy but FrC reported from talking to other space organisers that nor had they been. The perceived need was perhaps just not there in Wymondham and the winter had been mild. It was agreed to purchase as part of the council £2k grant a single induction portable hob and saucepan for fast heating of soup when required. CG
 - c. **Advent and Christmas services** – it had been gratifying to see good numbers at all services.
 - d. **Concerts** - bookings for 2023 looked encouraging.
 - e. **Churchyard activities** - a ‘Sculpture Trail’ had been proposed by Kelly Siddal and would be acceptable providing the subject matter was compatible with church and nature. Hilary Hunter would explore ideas with Kelly and consider issues such as theft and insurance. An alternative might be to have in indoor sculpture exhibition inside the Abbey as a Summer show to attract visitors.
The wire fence around the base of the West tower to remain while repair work is carried out.
 - f. **Abbey hall** - an initial meeting by the remaining committee has decided to offer the hall for hire. Charges will be reviewed in the light of other local halls and the cost of heating. The car park needs to be cleared of illegal users in readiness for booking and a sign designed to warn ‘This car park is for the use of Abbey Hall users only and may be locked at any time’. BR
 - g. **Community Engagement Group** - The Duck race planning has been started. Help has been offered by the Air Cadets. A very generous donation has been received specifically for ‘Outreach’ projects. A subgroup reporting to the PCC will be set up to generate ideas for mission projects that could make use of this fund and would include surveying other churches and local organisations to look for gaps that the Abbey could usefully fill.

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6 **Schedule of events for 2023** – See Lent Programme on adjacent noticeboard.

7 **Future appointment of Director of Music/Organist**

External funding has been offered for the appointment of a director. A small working party will be set up to develop a job description and aspiration of what we wish to bring to the Abbey with music. The group will be chaired by Fr Christopher and include Philip Aldred, Chris Grant, Kay Dorling, Ruth Brett, Barbara Randall and Peter O Conner. The plan will be to have a candidate in post by September 2023.

8 **Holy Trinity Spooner Row**

Spooner Row is doing well with a steady Sunday attendance of 15-20. Christmas services were especially well-attended. The Congregation would like to make a gift to Fr Tony in acknowledgement of his ongoing support. Andrew Naylor, Fabric Officer, continues to work closely with Philip Aldred on maintenance matters. An income and expenditure account is being maintained pending access to the bank account. Philip also reported that Spooner Row will make a contribution of £3,000 towards the Parish Share.

9 **Finance Report**

1. CG presented a report relating to funds yet to be requested and received from Wymondham Abbey Preservation Trust (WAPT) and Friends of the Abbey totalling about £19,000. A request to the WAPT will be made shortly and the Friends will be meeting in March to reconstitute the committee.
2. A proposal to pay the Parish share was agreed, £2,000 as a contribution to 2022 and £3,000 per month throughout 2023 with a review in the second half of the year with intention to top up to £65,000.

10 **Preparation for APCM**

A motion would be added to the agenda to allow for future electronic and online voting.

11 **Electoral Role** – currently stands at 152, an increase from 99 last time.

12 **Fabric Report**

The shop had been moved back and was fully up and running with all display cabinets and lighting. Congratulations to the shop team for all their hard work.

Cherry pickers will be operating first week of February in the Nave and outside to make inspection and clean gutters.

PAT testing of electrical items in progress.

13 **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding Officer reported good progress with some teams bit others needed to get moving with completing required courses.

14 **Any Other Business**

Preparation for the launch of the Guild of St Benedict on 8th February was under way. Funding for the setup costs to purchase membership card printer and badges would be sought from the Friends. Currently over 70 volunteers have replied to attend the event.

15 **Next PCC meeting** – Wednesday 1st March.

16 **The meeting closed with prayer at 18:52.**

Signed as a correct record of the meeting _____ date _____