

Minutes of PCC meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 in St Benedicts

ACTION

Present: Fr Christopher, Isabel Davidson, Kay Dorling, Chris Grant, Ruth Brett, David Hamilton, Jim Hartley, Hilary Hunter, Catherine Mack, Andrew Naylor, Barbara Randall, Brian Randall and Morwenna Thomas.

Apologies: Philip Aldred, Alex Perry and Sarah Sayer

1 Welcome and Prayer led by Fr Christopher

2 Minutes of last meeting held on 19 July 2023 were accepted as a correct record and were duly signed.

3 Matters arising not on current agenda

1. The PCC Secretary had received notification from the Diocese regarding the sale of Herfast House in Vicar Street. This was then forwarded to all PCC members on 18 August.
Fr C and the wardens will meet the surveyor at the new vicarage in Applegarth on 21 September to see plans for making the office accessible with separate access from the rest of the house.
2. For information, the Abbey schoolroom is now leased on a long let of seven years to Clear Company (the company that arranges our main fund-raising fairs etc.)

4 Update on music in services

1. Rob Goodrich was appointed to post in August. The augmented choir has now returned. There will be a balance of 'worship' and 'traditional' in the service music repertoire.
2. A junior choir is being recruited and will first sing at the Harvest service on Sun. 1 October when they will be augmented by a visiting choir from Robert Kett School.
3. There will be a full Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month.

5 MISSION / OUTREACH

Fr C reminded us that mission and outreach was our main role – doing what we can to serve our community.

A Appointment of Youth and Families worker

There has only been one applicant for the post despite extensive advertising. Rather than a formal interview at this stage Fr C will meet the candidate with JH and ID for a preliminary conversation.

B Website

The initial quote was high and the Preservation Trust requested other quotes. The job has now been given to a Norwich company at much lower cost. BR should receive preliminary designs in the next week or so and we hope the website will be functional in around eight weeks.

C Abbey hall

This is going to be partly used by Wymondham Community Outreach Project which runs a food bank on Tuesdays and Saturdays as well as other services (formerly from the RC church). They are now moving their equipment in. A Trust will be set up and JH and the vicar will be Trustees. We are currently trying to reclaim the carpark which is often used by the general public. An application will shortly be going to the Paul Basham Trust to help fund facilities in the hall, including office space.

D Concerts and Events

BaR circulated an updated list of events.

The vintage weekend had been a huge success with £490 raised in the Abbey café in the afternoon. The tours were also very popular.

E Guild of St Benedict

JH reported on the success of the Guild Social evening on 19 Sept. It was an excellent way for volunteers to get to know each other. We were shown part of the first draft of the video being made by a student about the work of the Abbey volunteers.

The PCC were very grateful to Robert Culyer for providing such delicious food for everyone.

F Holy Trinity Spooner Row

PA had reported that the Harvest Festival would be Sunday 8 October at 11am followed by a bring and share lunch. There had been a successful Art Exhibition of Graham Laine's paintings etc. 15% of his takings would be donated to SR.

Both Spooner Row accounts were now accessible. PA had requested that he be one of the signatories.

6 Finance – report from Chris Grant attached

A comprehensive written report had been circulated before the meeting. There is a current surplus of £1,595 for the year so far and there is a chance we could break even at the year-end.

We expect to pay the full parish share of £65,000 this year.

Four Barclays accounts have been closed saving £350 on bank charges. Other points noted were:

- there are plans for a banner-stand to promote increased giving by the public.
- a new contactless card machine was now on the café counter with easily variable amounts.
- saving on the cost of candles by using some oil-based candles at the book of remembrance and reusing stubs where possible
- other cost-saving ideas are always welcomed by the Treasurer.

CG was thanked for all the work involved in looking after the church finances.

7 Fabric Matters – report from Andrew Naylor

Work needed on the roof was more extensive than expected and there would be a further £20,000 cost which the Preservation Trust had agreed to pay, for which we were very grateful. Thanks were also given to AN for all his work as Fabric Officer.

It was hoped the sound system would be completed within the next month.

8 Eco Church and Churchyard – report from Hilary Hunter

The conservation area had been mown in August. All the new nut and fruit trees had been planted. There was a new compost bin. HH had been advised that the large trees in the churchyard need safety checks every five years. However, this was the responsibility of the Town Council.

HH was congratulated on gaining a gold award for the conservation area and was thanked for all the hard work entailed in looking after the conservation area and herb garden.

HH reminded the CWs that they had to complete the application for an Eco church Silver award.

Fr C offered to assist.

CWs
Fr C

9 Safeguarding – no matters had been reported**10 Health and Safety**

Ian Drayton had sent a very thorough report on to Fr C and CWs. No urgent action was required. Ian was thanked for all his diligent work on this.

11 Any other urgent business

- MT asked if there was a way the children of members of the congregation could get priority booking for the play group. Fr C would speak to Lorna about this.
- Some members of the PCC had not been receiving their PCC News. BaR had followed this up but unfortunately the hardcopy newsletters were going to be discontinued anyway. PCC members had been asked to make sure the Diocese had their contact details by using the link provided. BaR would check this in due course.

Fr C

BaR

Next meeting: Wednesday 15 November at 5.30pm

Signed as a correct record of the meeting _____ Date _____