



Minutes of the Parochial Church Council meeting of
St Mary's, Sixpenny Handley with Gussage St Andrew.

Date: 18th November 2009 **Started:** 7:35pm
Venue: The Vicarage **Ended:** 10:00pm
Chair: Mike Dyer

Present:

Mrs Sheila Bradley (Churchwarden)	Mr Michael Dyer
Mrs Bobby Carter	Mr Alec Hunt
Mrs Meg Cox	Mr David Lockyer (Treasurer)
Mr John Cullingford	Mr Paul Skinner
Mr John Davis	Mrs Rita Taylor
Rev Mel Durrant	Mrs Christine Warner
Mrs Margaret Durrant (member of Project Team)	Mr Mark Wolstenholme (Secretary)
	Miss Carole Wyatt (Churchwarden)

Apologies for absence:

Mrs Jo Scott

Absent:

Mr G. Harris has stood down from PCC

Summary of meeting:

- [258] • Financial status explored with regards to building project
 - Quinquennial items highlighted
 - Fund raising – need to 'raise our game', ideas requested
- [259] • Options for loan facility agreed for The 50k Challenge project
 - Phased approach to building project agreed
 - Phase one agreed – Tower and glass screen
- [260] • Contractor for building project agreed (Graham Dye)
- [AOB] • Concert by the Royal Corps of Signals reviewed

Matters arising:

Mel opened the meeting with a short reading and prayer.

Mike Dyer set the tone and direction for the meeting which had to make key decisions regarding the church refurbishment project (The 50k Challenge) and the finances required. Mike talked through letter that had been sent to the PCC members prior to the meeting and explained the two key items to be discussed;

- Our financial status – the need for a loan
- The way ahead – The 50k Challenge

My Notes:

Matters arising (continued):

Mike on behalf of the PCC thanked Margaret and Sheila for their work on the project. He confirmed our moral obligation to continue with the project and that timing was now critical.

The meeting had to reach a decision on which of the three builder's tenders to favour. An opportunity to meet the architect had been made available, but none had taken this up. Some questions were asked of the architect.

Not enough funds to go ahead. Need to consider loan. Mel explained that individual members of the PCC are not financially liable, just the PCC as a corporate body.

[258] Our financial status

David went through the Finance brief (18th Nov version)

No questions raised on finance brief.

Question raised with regards to cost of any works needed over and above the main building project to fulfil our quinquennial obligations. Alec replied that St Mary's quinquennial runs until 2014 and that the south aisle roof valley needs attention. The appropriate grade of lead to be used. He estimated about £15,000 in total by end of the quinquennial. Some urgent electrical work totaling £600 will go ahead shortly.

St Andrews is two years into its quinquennial. One side of the electrical system can be used at present, although if this fails then the church would be unusable. Damp problems around meter board. Not covered by insurance in current state. Work cannot be done DIY (ourselves). Need £4,500 for electrics and £3,000 for heating.

David explained that the Share should be paid in full by 1st December which is a tremendous achievement. Meeting expressed thanks to David for renegotiating the share.

[259] The way ahead – The 50k Challenge

The building project is the key issue for this meeting and the quinquennial work, whilst in no way forgotten, would be put aside for the moment.

A sheet summarising our current status was given out help the discussion. Sheila was confident that we would get at least one or two grants for some aspects of the work, e.g. restoration of the font.

My Notes:

Matters arising (continued):

The faculty has been granted and lasts 2 years. Work to be completed and paid for within that time. An application to extend the faculty can be made. If we were to phase the building work into two or more parts this must be agreed with the registrar.

Mike presented a repayments table to the meeting to show what our loan needs and repayments might be for each of the options presented; complete all work in one go, or phase the work into key elements, the tower, the screen, the pew area and font.

John C and Paul had worked up the phased options. The need for a loan was confirmed.

VAT may or may not need to be paid on some or all of the building work. For the figures given it was included at 17.5%. It would have to be paid and then reclaimed anyway.

Loan would be for three years and that we need only to draw from it what we need as we need it.

David pointed out how well we had done with our recent fund raising, but that the 'curve' had peaked and was declining. That we must step up our game when it came to fund raising in the future. Mike thanked those that worked so hard in the fund raising team, especially Bobby and Jean Mayne.

A vote was taken on the proposed building options. The meeting agreed on the 'Tower and screen' option as phase one to be followed by the 'Pew area' phase.

Vote for option	For	Against	Abstained
Do it all now	2	9	2
Tower only	3	9	1
Tower & screen	11	1	1

The Project Team were given the authority of the PCC to proceed with finalising the phased work with the registrar and contractors.

A coffee break was held from 9:10 to 9:25pm

The Chair advised the PCC to take out a facility of a loan with our Diocese. Any use of the loan would be authorised by the PCC. We would still need a loan whatever option had been chosen, but that we may get through without actually using all or part of it.

Proposal – To take out a loan facility

Proposed by Carole Wyatt, seconded by Bobby Carter

My Notes:

Matters arising (continued):

No figure for the loan to be decided at this meeting – Project Team to do that based on the outcome of the phased details once finalised. Standing Committee to agree figure, but loan will be above £9,000 (Treasurer recommended £25,000 to avoid having to apply for more than one loan). Project manager allowed to use up to £9,000. Any need to go over £9,000 will be returned to the PCC for approval. **Proposal passed** by all.

[260] Selection of builder for contract

Those in the PCC with building experience felt that the job was not difficult and only required basic building skills. Three tenders considered for approval.

Proposal – Approve tender from Graham Dye

Proposed by John Cullingford, seconded by Meg Cox
Passed by all.

Action for Project Team – to look at working area for contractor to use during building and agree access all parties.

The Chair made the following points:

- i) We must all back the Project Team with strong support. We need to commit fully and completely to the project. Mike to liaise with the Project Team for PCC.
- ii) Quinquennial review to be raised in Standing Committee before next PCC. Plan of action to be made ready for voting by PCC.
- iii) Review approach to fund raising. It will be a huge challenge! Mike to look at that before next PCC meeting in January.

Any Other Business

The Royal Corps of Signals concert raised about £1,000. The 'Glass Bowl' by the door collected about £600. The raffle by Rita was very successful, raising £156.

Rita asked for Bobby and Jean to be recognised for all their hard work given over the last two years. Mel proposed thanks to Mike, Sheila and Margaret for all the work on the building project. Meeting all agreed both proposals.

Date of next PCC meeting – Wed 13th January 2010 at 7.30pm

Mel closed the meeting with a reading from Jeremiah 29 v13 and a prayer.

My Notes: