



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

Date: 8th December 2010

Venue: The Vicarage

Chair: Rev Mel Durrant

Started: 7:35pm

Ended: 9:32pm

Present:

Mrs Naomi Booth
 Mr Mike Carter
 Mr Ted Cox
 Rev Mel Durrant
 Mr Richard Ironside
 Mr David Lockyer (Treasurer)
 Mr David Salmons²
 Rev Paul Skinner
 Mr Mark Wolstenholme (Secretary)
 Miss Carole Wyatt (Churchwarden)

Apologies for absence:

Mrs Bobby Carter
 Mr John Cullingford¹
 Mr John Davis
 Mrs Jackie Molnar
 Mrs Christine Warner

1 Licensed Lay Minister

2 Diocesan representative

Summary of meeting:

- [35] • Welcome to Ricky Ironside as new treasurer
- [36] • Minutes of 3rd Nov 2010 – minor alterations to [24] and [26]
- [37] • Matters arising;
 - (a) Update on repair of stolen lead
 - (b) The electrical work at Gussage St Andrew on hold to answer DAC
 - (c) Appointment of new treasurer – approved
 - (d) Correspondent for church bank accounts – approved
 - (e) Bank account signatories – four approved
 - (f) Attendance figures – winter numbers down
 - (g) Gift to the Army Benevolent Fund – paid
 - (h) Porch light – awaiting invoice
 - (i) Friends of St Mary's – further points to consider
 - (j) Christmas Fayre – funds raised up, attendance down on last year
- [38] • Annual Financial Review
- [39] • Proposals passed;
 - (a) Proposal to request change of DHCT load to a grant
 - (b) Authority for treasurer to draw funds to pay Diocesan Share
 - (c) Proposal to delay monthly outward giving until the end of the year
 - (d) Collections and agency for disaster relief aid to be agreed by PCC
- [40] • Deanery Synod report
- [41] • Any Other Business (AOB)
- [42] • Date of next meeting – Wednesday 12th January at 7.30pm

[35] Welcome

Mel welcomed everyone and started the meeting with special thanks to David Lockyer for all his hard work as treasurer over many years, and a welcome to Ricky (Richard) Ironside as the new treasurer, subject to final PCC approval. Ricky introduced himself and gave a brief resumé.

Mel finished the welcome with a reading from Isaiah 40 and a prayer.

[36] Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 3rd November 2010 were approved and signed with minor alterations to [24] remove thanks to Carole W and [26] to clarify which church buildings were being referred to.

[37] Matters arising

a) Progress on St Mary's roof damaged by theft of lead – Carole W updated the meeting; We now have permission from Registry to carry out a temporary repair. The current emergency repair will not last very long and a more durable temporary repair is required. This will give us up to two years to sort out the final repair, which will require a Faculty. A new estimate on the possible cost was given by John Turnball our architect at £20,000. Although not all the lead was stolen from the north valley, the remainder was damaged and the whole valley will need to be replaced. The temporary repair will cost about £6-700. The insurance claim is waiting for quotes before being progressed.

b) The electrical work at Gussage St Andrew is on hold whilst the project team and our architect answer queries raised by the DAC due to the change of contractor. The third grant application that was made hasn't been answered which makes it more likely that it has been rejected.

c) Appointment of new treasurer. David L proposed that Ricky Ironside be appointed to the position of treasurer for St Mary's with Gussage St Andrew. Seconded by Carole W. Approved by all.

d) Correspondent for church bank accounts – David L proposed that the churchwarden, Carole W, be the correspondent for the General and Buildings accounts. Seconded by David S and approved by all.

e) Bank account signatories. David L recommended that signatories are changed by the end of the year and before any changes to bank accounts are made as this will smooth the switch to any new account arrangements. Four signatories needed as the new treasurer doesn't live in the village and wouldn't generally be available. The PCC previously operated with three. David S stressed the need to get the paperwork moving immediately.

My Notes:

[37] Matters arising (continued)

e) Bank account signatories (continued). By default the treasurer and account correspondent are signatories. David L proposed that the four signatories to be Carole W (Churchwarden), Ricky Ironside (Treasurer), Paul S (Assistant Curate) and Naomi B (PCC member). Seconded by David S. Approved by all.

f) Attendance figures – David L challenged the perception that attendance was ‘generally up’ after reviewing the weekly register. He reiterated the challenge we face raising income, especially as winter attendance is down on previous years.

g) Gift to the Army Benevolent Fund – David L reported that this has now been paid.

h) Porch light – no invoice received. Churchwarden to chase up.

i) Friends of St Mary’s – David L encouraged the PCC to think further about the possible drawbacks to such a scheme. He cautioned that funds going to the Friends charity would likely impact on church giving and that we would lose control of that money. Such charities tend to work better with Grade 1 listed churches.

j) Christmas Fayre – No final figure on money raised. Money still coming in. Currently about £100 more than last year despite attendance being down. The poor promotion of the event outside of the area was raised as well as the lack of ‘Christmas’ attractions.

[38] Annual Financial Review

David L reported that our shortfall for year end should be between £0 – 1,000 which was better than projected due to recent income from events such as the Christmas Fayre.

The aim must be to pay the Share in full and for that money to come out of routine income and not to rely on income from events or sources that cannot be guaranteed. A final payment of £1370.46 is required. David highlighted the example of funerals. They have been fewer in number in 2010, which has had an impact on income.

The contingency fund has been re-established at £6,000.

We have two further grants for the work at St Andrew’s guaranteed. We shall receive £3,000 from the Erskine Muton Foundation when we get the Faculty and a further £1,500 from the St Andrew’s Conservation Trust when the work is completed. These payments will increase the St Andrew’s RESTRICTED fund to a total of £8,500.

Dorset Historic Trust – £2,500 outstanding on loan. £1,250 due to be paid by year end. If the DHCT loan continues to be retained as originally intended then that leaves £3,275 available for Buildings & Fabric works in addition to the restricted funds.

My Notes:

[39] Proposals

a) Proposal to request change of DHCT load to a grant;

Because of the situation we now find ourselves in with regards to expensive repairs to St Mary's roof after the theft of lead, the suggestion was made that we request the Dorset Historic Churches Trust to convert the outstanding £2,500 on the loan to a grant. The Churchwarden to write to DHCT with this request. Proposed by David L, seconded by Ted C. Passed by the meeting.

b) Authority for treasurer to draw funds to pay Diocesan Share;

Should we fall short of funds to complete the final payment on our Share, the treasurer is authorised to draw on funds from the general contingency fund. Proposed by Paul S, seconded by Naomi B. Passed by the meeting.

c) Proposal to delay monthly outward giving until the end of the year;

The meeting discussed at length the issue of outward giving. With funds tight and likely to go down even further as the effects of the recession builds, monthly giving from funds we do not have doesn't make any sense! The proposal was to wait until the PCC's financial meeting at the end of next year before paying the charities on our annual outward giving list. We would then know what we can afford to give. The risk to abandoning set monthly giving would be the risk of spending all the money and greatly diminishing the amount we give. It was agreed that the January and February gifts to the charities that have supported us in the past should continue as an "investment". Also the two special collection services, Remembrance Sunday and Christingle, will remain as is. The other eight charities would not be paid on "their" month, but at the end of the year. Proposed by Ted C, seconded by Carole W. Passed with a small majority.

d) Collections and agency for disaster relief aid to be agreed by PCC

After discussion it was agreed that advance warning of retiring collections for disaster relief will help people allow for it. This would also help reduce the "loss" to regular giving. The desire for a speedy response was discussed and the need for accounting transparency highlighted. The proposal was that outward giving special collects for disaster relief and the choice of relief agency to be approved by the PCC. Proposed by Ted C, seconded by Mark W and passed.

[40] Deanery Synod report

David S has sent this out to the PCC. Full discussion at next meeting.

[41] Any Other Business (AOB) – None**[42] Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 12th January 2011 at 7.30 pm.

My Notes: