



Minutes of PCC Meeting Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Howard Wright, David Duffin, Andrew Walters, Pauline Hughes, Timothy James, Claire MacPherson (Treasurer), Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums, Doug Titheridge, Jill Williams, Jane Hughes (guest), David Williams (secretary).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Action

Howard Wright welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of 2023. A special welcome to newly elected member, Doug Titheridge. Rich and David W had been re-elected at the APCM. Sadly, Abi Mezzullo had needed to resign part way through her term of office. Apologies were received from Janet Foster, Rich Gillard and Frank Maloney.

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard W led the meeting in singing "I cast my mind to Calvary" and "Build my life". Andy and Jill committed the meeting to God in prayer.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

Howard mentioned that David Duffin receives occasional fees for playing keyboard at funerals. No other declarations reported.

4. PCC – 21st March 2023

- a. Approval of Minutes – approved *nem con*.
- b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:
 - i. OFSTED report – Four Marks CofE Primary School: 3 out of 5 categories graded 'Outstanding' and the other 2 'Good'. PCC recorded special thanks to the current Chair of Governors, Mike Smith, who had joined the visit from his holiday in Australia.
Howard Wright as vicar is *ex officio* a governor of the school. There remains a vacancy for a third governor.
 - ii. Practicalities of implementing Clergy Wellbeing recommendations
Howard and Andy to meet to discuss how these can be achieved in practice. After Jon Rooke's completion of his Training Curacy and departure to PoTR, Diocese has no plan to replace him at COGS with or without the impending merger of the parish with St Andrew's Medstead. It may be possible to make representation through the Deanery Synod to the Diocese for greater support for Howard in the proposed Benefice.

HW/AW

5. APCM – 2nd May 2023

- a. Approval of Minutes – these were approved unanimously.
- b. Matters Arising
Questions had been raised after the APCM about a minor inconsistency in elements of the Annual Accounts. PCC acknowledged that the bottom line was unchanged. It had been noted that several persons had scrutinised the documents before the meeting without noticing the issue. Concern was expressed that while a member of the congregation had recognised the problem, the Independent Examiner had not apparently picked it up.

6. Finance.

Claire reported that as a result of the statement made to congregation on two Sunday mornings, several regular donors have increased their giving to COGS. In addition, there had been some large one-off donations. As a result, the forecast of a budget deficit of £32k had been transformed; a significant surplus was projected. The revised forecast only allows for the increased regular giving, not the one-offs. It was to be hoped that one or more of the items placed on a 'wish-list' at the previous PCC meeting might be reconsidered. Two examples were advanced:

- Improvements to the hall kitchen;
- Reinstating the suspended tithe giving to some or all of the Missions we formerly supported.

Howard, Churchwardens and Timothy were asked to review the possibilities in more detail and make recommendations to the next PCC meeting. To assist them, Claire was asked to recirculate the 'Additional Items'.

PCC also agreed to review the Reserves Policy at the next meeting. PCC expressed thanks to Claire for bringing encouraging news.

HW/AW/
DD/TJ

CM

(Note after meeting: due to an accident of timing and a consequential misunderstanding between Bookkeeper and Treasurer, one significant donation had been double-counted. The forecast is now for a small surplus.)

7. Update on Discussions with St Andrew's, Medstead

- a. Response to our letter of 6th March to the Diocesan Team.

A letter had been received with an up-to-date scheme (Jan 2023) attached. This draft has gone to the Church Commissioners. As far as we know they have not yet returned it for the public consultation.

Jill identified an error in the first note to the document stating that the two current parishes share a Primary School. A letter will be sent to the Diocesan Team point out the two separate schools. It will also remind the Team that this doubles the responsibility of the vicar as *ex officio* Governor of two schools, not one.

DW

- b. Informal Local Meetings – meeting of Tuesday 9th May 2023

This meeting had continued in the positive attitude of previous meetings. Contact had been made with Andover parish church which has been going through a similar process, uniting four parishes into one. They have produced a useful booklet which we will obtain and circulate for information.

DW

8. Retreat Morning plans

The Leaders' Retreat morning will take place on Saturday 20th May from 8.30am until 1pm. Howard has circulated a programme. St Andrew's PCC had been sent an invite. Unfortunately, it was not possible for PCC members from Medstead to attend.

9. Teams

- a. Personnel:

- i. Howard will be having a conversation with Lorna before our July meeting about her return to work following her maternity leave.

HW

- b. Building.

- i. Quinquennial Review: report has still not been formally submitted.

- ii. Progress on work informally notified to us: tile slippage and a significant leak in the flat roof over the main church room had been repaired, thanks to Andy Walters and a colleague.

- iii. A gift has been received to supply and fit two modern TV screens in place of the venerable projector in the church building.

- c. Ministry Leaders.

Nothing to report

- d. Mission Team.

Nothing to report.

10. Safeguarding

PCC members were asked to check the expiry dates of their Safeguarding certificates. If necessary, they should retake the courses in order to remain current. Doug Titheridge, as a new PCC member, is to be advised by Matt about the two courses required.

ALL

11. Health and Safety.

- a. Bi-monthly report: Frank had provided document:
23.05.5 Health & Safety Rpt.docx.
- b. Eleven people had taken a basic First Aid course on Saturday 13th May. A notice providing the "Three Word" description of our location for purposes of directing emergency services will be posted in the porch.
- c. The note about Fire Exit paving slabs will no longer need to feature in H&S reports.

FM/MS

FM

12. Any Other Business (to be notified before the meeting).

None

13. Date of next meeting:

PCC, Tuesday 18th July 2023

Howard W concluded the meeting with prayer at 9.15pm
