

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 8th March 2022

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING & PRAYER

The Vicar opened the meeting with reflections from Matthew 6.24-25, and led the meeting in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY AND 3RD FEBRUARY 2022

- a. The previous Minutes were approved *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.
- b. No matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. The PCC had received a response from Bishop Guli in relation to the PCC's request for ministry under the House of Bishop's Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests. The Bishop supports the resolution passed in November 2019 and will make appropriate arrangements to ensure the upkeep of the request. This concludes the matter and the Vicar will respond to Bishop Guli and thank her warmly on behalf of the PCC.
- b. A cheque for £3000.14 from the Estate of Sydney Crease has been sent to St Peter's. The legacy will go to the General Church Fund.
- c. The Vicar related to the PCC an update from Birkett Long LLP, addressing four issues that the PCC had been seeking clarity on. This was in regard to a) the ownership of the disabled access via High Street, b) the ownership of the Noodle Bar alleyway, c) the ownership of the land for trees located next to the church hall and d) the matter regarding the licence of the air condenser unit at the back of Matane Sushi Bar.

5. MONTHLY 'SHORT REPORTS'

The short reports were given verbally at the meeting. Main points from the reports:

- a. Churchwardens' Report. The tree work in the churchyard has been approved and is expected to be completed in March. A deposit of £50 for the hall door repair has been paid and work will be underway. The outdoor lamp near the Hall has been deemed unsafe and is therefore disconnected. Alternative sources of lighting will be being looked into.
- b. Safeguarding Report. The Safeguarding Committee met on the 7th March and completed the National Safeguarding Checklist. Mrs Anne Kavanagh expressed a word of thanks to the Committee for their work.
- c. Treasurer's Report. Donations to the General Fund have been received, some specifically to ensure that children's and pastoral work can continue into 2023, if required. Hall hire still does not cover our costs. Wages need to be revised soon. Another contribution of the S106 grant has come in for the redecoration work of the hall. Dr Dan Watts thanked Mr Richard Lawn for his work as Treasurer.
- d. Synod Reports. A proposal to ask General Synod to consider a code of conduct for PCC members was agreed. The process for working out parish shares in the Diocese is being changed.

6. SPOTLIGHT REPORT: MINISTRY

The PCC discussed the spotlight report and its four proposals.

Proposal 1 (SPK & Youth Work): that the Vestry be made available for a parent-run-Creche on Sunday mornings, with the necessary tidying and re-ordering work to be completed as soon as possible. Result: All in favour.

Proposal 2 (SPK & Youth Work): that a small partition wall be built in the Hall, with a stair-gate attachment, to restrict young children's movements. A counterproposal was made that the screen be repaired or replaced, but this counterproposal was not supported by the PCC (4 votes for the counter proposal, 8 against). Result: The initial proposal was supported by the PCC (10 votes for the proposal, 2 abstentions).

Proposal 3 (SPK & Youth Work): that the storage issues in the Hall be partially resolved by built-in low cupboard/seats against the west wall. Result: All in favour for cupboards in principle. The issue of sizes will be looked into and a new proposal will be sent to the PCC for approval.

Proposal 4 (The Redevelopment Project): the formation of a small fundraising group to enable applications to various grant-making trusts. Result: All in favour. Dr Mick Kavanagh, Mr Richard Lawn and Mrs Wendy Whitfield volunteered to be on the team. Mr Tim Hearn and Dr Dan Watts offered to be in the group in a reviewing capacity.

The Vicar thanked Mr Duncan Breckels and Mr Tim Hearn for attending the recent meeting with the Quantity Surveyor and Ben Downie.

Volunteering & Rotas. The Vicar expressed a note of warm thanks to the Churchwardens and to the staff team members Mrs Lizzie Wallace and Mrs Bernice Watts.

7. THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION AT ST PETER'S

The PCC agreed to trial the use of individual cups at Communion Services and to allow the Vicar to work out the best way to distribute Communion on this basis.

8. PROPOSAL RE PCC MINISTRY APPOINTMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

The PCC discussed the updated proposals, and decided the following:

- job title: "Ministry Assistant"
- hours (20-25hrs/wk, by negotiation with successful candidate)
- advertising: via social media, agencies, website and through networking around the deanery.
- short-listing / interview panel: Vicar, Churchwardens, plus one other (ensuring male/female representation)
- closing date for applications: Sunday 1st May
- date for short-listing: evening of Tuesday 3rd May
- possible date for interview: afternoon of Sunday 15th May

9. PLANNING FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS (SATURDAY 7TH MAY, 10AM)

- a. The PCC delegated the authority to approve the Annual Report to the Standing Committee. A draft would be shown to the PCC before the Standing Committee meeting on Monday 11th April.
- b. The PCC delegated the authority to approve the Electoral Roll to the Standing Committee.
- c. The Vicar gave an update on vacancies for election in 2022: there are the usual 2 vacancies for Churchwardens, 4 vacancies for PCC members (with the option to co-opt 2 additional members if needed).
- d. The PCC discussed the pattern for PCC meetings with the view to decrease the frequency of full PCC meetings (aiming for 6 meetings a year, rather than the current 10), while allowing sub-committees to take up much of the work. The date of the next full PCC meeting was confirmed as Monday 4th July.

10. AOB

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 7th May (after the Annual Church Meetings).

15. CLOSING PRAYERS

Various members led the meeting in closing prayers.

APPENDIX 1

Mr Duncan Breckels	present
Mr James Coe	absent
Dr Matt Cox	apologies
Mr Tim Hearn	present
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	present
Dr Mick Kavanagh	present
Mr Richard Lawn	present
Mrs Val Morris	present
Mrs Clare Reid	present
Revd Mark Wallace	present
Mrs Bernice Watts	present
Dr Dan Watts	present
Mrs Wendy Whitfield	present