

St Mary the Virgin East Barnet

PCC Meeting

10th September 2023

Minutes

Present: Roger Melling (Chair), John Hawkins, John Savage, Gail Phillips, Angela Johnson, Shaun Sanders, Steve Edwards

Apologies: Alec Corio, Katherine Duncan-Kerr, Margaret Cranfield, Thomas Hodgson, Victor Chan, Bettina von Cossel, Amy Flannery, Alison Blunt, Grant Fassett

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
 - a. Received as above.
3. Minutes
 - a. The Minutes of the 9th July 2023 meeting were approved and signed.
 - b. The Minutes of the 21st May 2023 extraordinary PCC meeting were signed and approved
4. Matters arising (inc. Correspondence):
 - a. Recruitment Tracker Update
 - i. Steve Edwards has now completed all mandatory safeguarding training
 - b. A decision pending on a grant from the council towards the overrun on the hall completion will be decided at a meeting on Thursday 14th September
 - c. We have received an email from Ash Construction stating they have now completed all items on the snagging list for the hall construction. Roger will check through the list.
 - d. We have received a series of communications relating to council tax demands on the houses at 54 and 54a Church Hill Road (the old hall site). This covers periods before the houses were occupied and it is unclear whether we or the builder should be liable. Roger is in communication with the council to clarify.
5. MAP Matters arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)
 - a. Developing an integrated communications strategy.
 - i. Little progress due to external commitments. Bettina, Victor & Steve have volunteered to participate.
 - b. Increasing sidesmen numbers by 50% and providing invitation and welcome training to lay volunteers.

- i. Three volunteers are now active on the rota. A further individual may also be prepared to participate.
- c. Inviting community groups into partnership in the community halls.
 - i. The hall continues to see good use from local groups: Social Justice, Labour, East Barnet Residents Association, Sewing Circle and Barnet Collective. However no new groups since the last PCC meeting.
 - ii. Steve Edwards mentioned the council has a grant of up to £2500 for community groups. He will forward the details..
 - iii. A suggestion has been made to host a board games evening. John H has volunteered to lead on this..
- d. Making a commitment as lay volunteers to pray for an ecumenical pioneer ministry on the NLBP housing development.
 - i. Nothing to report. There may be further delays to the build due to planning issues.
- e. Achieving Bronze eco church status.
 - i. Angela gave a report. We are currently at Bronze status in all categories apart from one: Community. A number of initiatives could easily get us to bronze in this area.
 - 1. Add a “Please consider walking, cycling or using public transport” when advertising events and services. Action: John H to progress.
 - 2. We could encourage our congregation to calculate a “personal carbon footprint”. Potentially something to be considered in the 24th September Care & Creation service.
 - 3. We could add practical tips for lifestyle changes on our website and newsletter
 - 4. Ask Sarah Edwards from the JustMoney foundation to talk at a Sunday service for ethical investing. Discuss with Patrick Moriarty potentially for the October 25th service.
 - 5. Encourage use of food at home that is LOAF (Locally sourced, organically grown, animal friendly and fairly traded).
 - 6. Create a bulk buying scheme for parishioners.

6. Budget Report and Parish Share

- a. Roger presented a summary of our current financial situation broken down into regular/known income and expected/projected expenditure on a monthly basis.
- b. It was stressed that there continues to be a level of uncertainty in some figures, especially towards energy costs. The failure to achieve a smart reader that automatically submits readings is frustrating and may have lead to usage being charged at a higher level. Roger is spending a large amount of time trying to get the energy company to rectify this.
- c. The proposal to immediately resume parish share repayments at the level of £3000 was approved unanimously. Roger will contact the diocese to confirm the standing order for this.

- d. A quote to remediate issues with our external safety lighting was approved unanimously.
 - e. Our finances remain precarious and will need careful consideration constantly. Whilst a small surplus is shown on the monthly budget Roger presented it must be remembered that this includes no contingencies for unexpected expenditure.
 - f. It was noted that people had responded positively to the return of the collection plate.
7. Any other business
- a. It was noted that the midday time on Sunday for PCC meetings is not working well. As our Chair would be unable to make the time on the next meeting, we have agreed to trial a later afternoon time. The next PCC meeting will therefore be on the **Sunday 19th November at 4pm**

The meeting finished with The Grace at 2.20pm