

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING BIBLE READING AND PRAYERS

The Vicar opened the meeting with a Bible reading from Psalm 146 before leading in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

See Appendix 1.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Proposal: "This PCC approves the minutes of the full PCC meeting held in September 2020."

Result: **all in favour**

4. MATTERS ARISING

The length of term for new PCC members was determined by ballot, and it was agreed that Mr James Coe and Dr Dan Watts would serve on the PCC for 2 years (until 2022) and that Dr Mick Kavanagh, Mr Richard Lawn and Mrs Wendy Whitfield would serve for 3 years (until 2023).

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Quinlan Terry Architects. The Vicar had received correspondence from QTA regarding their intention to withdraw, with almost immediate effect, as architects for the Redevelopment Project. QTA would be willing to remain as our Quinquennial Architects if requested. It was agreed the issues arising from this should be on the agenda for December.

Lockdown measures. Dr Daniel Watts noted correspondence received regarding the Diocesan response to the Government's recent lockdown measures.

6. ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. RATIFICATIONS OF DECISIONS MADE BY EMAIL SINCE LAST MEETING

These decisions were ratified *nem con*.

8. REPORTS

Safeguarding. Mrs Anne Kavanagh highlighted the change of role for herself and Dr Matt Cox as newly elected Churchwarden and will seek advice of their DBS check. She also raised the need of risk assessments to be gathered more coherently in the future. Dr Daniel Watts expressed a note of thanks to Anne for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer. The question remains who will take over the PSO role. One suggestion was to form a small committee for workload sharing.

Ministry. In addition to the Vicar's report, Dr Dan Watts reported on the Working Group's progress exploring the possibility of partnership with St Peter's and Beacon House. Beacon House is positive to the idea of hosting an evening with activities, food and Christian content at the Beacon House premises on a regular basis. The group will also continue to support the Soup Run/Beacon House. It was agreed that the Working Group should pursue

these options. In relation to the Vicar's proposals, it was agreed that the church building should remain shut as required by the lockdown restrictions, and that broadcasting directly from church is not currently viable.

Finances. The Treasurer reported that Parish Share for 2021 had been agreed with Mr Chris Copus from the Diocese.

Church & Hall Fabric. Mrs Wendy Whitfield commented that there had not been any response requesting the information required as a condition of the Faculty for the oil painting of the church.

Redevelopment & Fundraising. The Vicar expressed concern over the recent correspondence from QTA on their intention to withdraw from the building work and the lengthy process it is to appoint other architects. Some large funds are closed for the time being and might take 2-3 years to unlock. The question was raised whether we extend the Redevelopment Project in order to raise money or reshape the project and do something with the means we currently have at our disposal.

Diocesan Synod. The Vicar gave a brief verbal summary of the gloomy financial situation in the Diocese.

9. APPOINTMENTS: ADVERTISING AND INTERVIEWING

It was agreed that executive authority for making these appointments should be delegated to the Churchwardens and the Church Administrator, along with someone (eg the Archdeacon) 'from outside'. The Finance Sub-Committee should be asked to provide details for the prospective salaries. It was agreed that advertising via the internet should be sufficient, but that other churches should be contacted (including both Anglican and non-Anglican contacts). The aim remains to make an appointment by 1st January 2021.

10. REVIEW OF PCC POLICIES FOR 2020-2021

It was agreed in principle that the PCC should have a Policy Handbook, and some initial comments were made on the first draft. PCC members were encouraged to contact the Vicar with suggestions for further policies to be included. The following policies were formally adopted *nem con*:

- the Parish Safeguarding Policy
- the Parish GDPR Policy
- the PCC Policy on Repairs to the Church Roof.

11. ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER'S

The PCC had received notes from a recent Christmas planning meeting and was positive to the ideas by this group. It was suggested that a DVD for Christmas services be made available for those without online access.

12. AOB, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED UNDER 6

None.

13. CLERGY NOTICES

The Vicar gave notice of using the same policy as in the previous lockdown period to allow last minute decisions regarding church openings and policy to be made by the Vicar and Churchwardens if required.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th December, at 7:30pm. PCC meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

15. CLOSING PRAYERS

The Vicar closed the meeting in prayer.

APPENDIX 1

Mr Duncan Breckels	present
Mr James Coe	present
Dr Matt Cox	present
Mr Peter Holden	present (<i>when internet connection permitted</i>)
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	present
Dr Mick Kavanagh	present
Mr Richard Lawn	present
Mrs Lizzie Wallace	apologies
Revd Mark Wallace	present
Mrs Bernice Watts	present
Dr Dan Watts	present
Mrs Wendy Whitfield	present