

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Tuesday 14th September 2021

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. OPENING PRAYER

The Vicar opened the meeting by reading from Lamentations 3:22-23, and then led the meeting in prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. A PRESENTATION FROM BEN DOWNIE OF INKPEN DOWNIE, FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS

Mr Ben Downie of Inkpen Downie gave a presentation on the proposed refurbishment plan for the church, including an overview of the three phases of construction. This was followed by Q&A, with a number of issues to be clarified before a QS was engaged. The PCC approved the proposed phased approach as presented by Mr Ben Downie, and to proceed with the engagement of a QS as soon as possible.

4. MONTHLY 'SHORT' REPORTS

Written reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposal from the Churchwardens that arrangements be made to service the church boiler was agreed.

5. SPOTLIGHT REPORT: MINISTRY AT ST PETER'S

The Vicar invited the PCC to discuss points in the Ministry report in twos and threes and then to feed back to the council. The feedback focused mainly on the rebooting of the Community Groups, the volunteering culture in the church, the WhatsApp prayer meetings and the redevelopment project, but all parts were discussed in the small groups and were found helpful.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY 2021

The previous Minutes were approved *nem con* and signed by the Vicar.

7. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Gift from Fordham PCC. The Vicar informed the PCC of a letter received with a gift of £400 from Fordham PCC towards the work of St Peter's. This is of great encouragement and the PCC is thankful for the gift.

£106 contributions. Mrs Bernice Watts had received an email from Yovone Cook at Colchester Borough Council, offering a further grant of £106 contributions. The total offer is for £3,520.82, which includes £993.32 that we have already spent. Once the funding comes through, the amount that will be available for future use is £2,527.50. The PCC agreed that Mrs Bernice Watts should oversee this process and enable the money to be spent on enhancement on the Church Hall. Since the grant cannot be spent on more substantial repair work, it was agreed that Mr Richard Lawn and Mrs Wendy Whitfield should liaise about replacing the hall door by the toilets which is beyond repair. This will have to be paid for from our own funds.

Library in church. The Vicar had received an email from Mrs Val Morris re starting up a small library of Christian books in the church. A short discussion followed, and the PCC is positive to the idea in principle. Mrs Val Morris will

write this up in the format of a formal proposal, to include provision of Covid safety, and to be brought up later within the PCC.

Churchyard. Mrs Wendy Whitfield had received an email from Mr Hinde, Tree Inspector, who will make a visit to the churchyard. This visit is in response to an email sent by Mrs Whitfield in September 2020 expressing our concerns over a tree in poor condition and the problems posed by branches overhanging the church roof.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Home Communion. The Vicar proposed that the PCC invest in a Home Communion set, to enable the resumption of Home Communion. The PCC approved the cost of this kit (£192).

Hymn books. The Vicar raised the issue of what should be done with the old hymn books that are no longer in use, but for which the church lacks a good storage solution for. The PCC agreed to retain a small number of the 'blue' hymn books, but to seek to dispose of the remaining (proposed by Dr Mick Kavanagh, seconded by Dr Matt Cox).

Rubbish clearance. Mr Richard Lawn asked if Dave Lacy's sick leave requires special arrangement for cleanliness and rubbish collection. Wendy agreed that she would ensure that the gate was open for the bin to be collected by CSH on the relevant days.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 12th October, at 7:30pm.

12. CLOSING PRAYERS

The meeting was closed in prayer.

APPENDIX 1

Mr Duncan Breckels	present
Mr James Coe	present
Dr Matt Cox	present
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