

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 23 November 2023 at 7.30 at St Martin's

Those present:

Revd W Warren	Revd J Hodgkinson	Mr I Kimble
Mr D Loades	Mr D Tuthill	Mrs M Howard
Miss A Cottingham	Mr D Orsborne	Mr D Anderson
Mr J Hodgkinson	Mrs J Anderson	Mr D Broughton
Mrs S McCandlish	Mrs M Pallister	Mr G Purland
Mr S Purslow		

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, Revd W Warren.

Apologies were received from Alison Orsborne and Brenda Stibbons.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

The meeting began with sung worship led by Simon Purslow and a reflection by the Vicar on Psalm 125.

- a) The Psalm dates from a time when God's people were under ungodly leadership.
- b) The Psalmist is encouraging them, reminding them of God's promises of protection and his presence.

A time of prayer followed.

Opening Business

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

David Orsborne declared an interest in item 9, Mission Partner Review. He had nominated one of the Mission Partners.

4. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING OF 19 OCTOBER 2023

The minutes of the PCC meeting of 19 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The following matters were arising: Kintsugi Hope; Sue Brocklehurst has begun her training.

5. MINUTES OF THE STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 8 NOVEMBER 2023

- a) Revd Julia Chamberlin will be licensed on 3 December at 6.30.
- b) Living in Love and Faith:
 - i. Some good questions were asked at the meeting on 6 November.
 - ii. The Vicar has circulated a precis of the General Synod decisions to PCC.
 - iii. The Vicar attended a meeting of the Norwich Evangelical Fellowship. A lot of churches in the Diocese are very concerned. The Vicar has been tasked with writing the Fellowship's response. It covers all the issues we would have raised.
 - iv. The Vicar is asking Bishop Graham for a form of words to be used when a couple approaches an evangelical church, asking for a blessing. PCC will then take a resolution to adopt this form of words.
 - v. Asked how we might support him, the Vicar said prayer was key. We might also think about our Parish Share.
 - vi. As a larger church, we can encourage others.
 - vii. The bishops need to recognise that what is right for one church will not be right for others.
 - viii. The Vicar, for his own protection, would need witnesses when he speaks to same sex couples.
- c) St Martin's double glazing: the beading and making good are still to be done.

6. NOTES FROM COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM (CLT) 10 OCTOBER 2023

The notes were received.

7. NOTES FROM MISSION LEADERSHIP TEAM (MLT) 13 OCTOBER 2023

The notes were received.

8. URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FABRIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (FLT) 20 NOVEMBER

Parish Church: Item arising from pre-contract meeting for lighting scheme, of 17.11.23:

- i. The de-stratification fans require maximum of 3 year servicing so as to comply with the manufacturer's warranty. The specialist supplier has advised that the de-stratification fans can be supported by purpose-made motor-driven winches, so that each fan can be lowered to floor level to enable maintenance to take place without the need for scaffolding.
- ii. The cost quoted is £7,500 + VAT.
- iii. The alternative would be to scaffold the church every 3 years, at a cost likely to be in the region of £10,000 each time.
- iv. As the accepted tender for the re-lighting was approximately £8,000 + VAT less than the cost approved by PCC (£50,000 + VAT), in effect the cost will not take the overall scheme above the costs approved by PCC, but FLT consider it appropriate that PCC should agree to this cost.

It was AGREED to authorise in principle the additional expenditure of £7,500 + VAT. In respect of a sensible solution for maintenance of the de-stratification fans element of the overall scheme.

Parish Hall

One wash basin water heater to the toilet at the back of the hall, east side, has failed. It is a requirement that both hot and cold water be provided at a toilet washbasin. This is particularly important now as we will be using the Parish Hall for Sunday Worship as from beginning of January.

It was AGREED that a new water heater be installed in the easterly toilet to the rear rooms at a cost £425+ VAT.

Church Life and Growth

9. FINANCE

- a) Expenses should be claimed by the due date in December to avoid accruals.
- b) 10% deposit has been paid on the sound system upgrade. The system is going to cost £9,128 + VAT as opposed to the £14k originally budgeted.
- c) Photocopier: the Treasurer has cancelled the Direct Debits until a refund is received.

- d) There has been a small increase in the budget for Meeting Point.
- e) Contradictory letters have been received from Anglian Water, but its likely we'll have to pay a bill of £2k.
- f) In response to a question, the Treasurer explained that income from Standing Orders was down due to people passing away or changing to Parish Giving Scheme.

10. MISSION PARTNER REVIEW

- a) As a result of the recent ballot, the church chose London City Mission (championed by Elizabeth Bridger), with Good News for Everyone (championed by Jenny Jacquier and Jenny Syder) and the Bible Society (championed by David Anderson) tying in second place.

It was AGREED to adopt London City Mission, Good News for Everyone and the Bible Society as our Mission Partners for a period of 3 years commencing on 1 January 2024.

- b) Michelle Proctor:

- I. The following email had been received from Judith Anderson: "I am deeply concerned that the decision to withdraw support from Michelle Proctor has been made without reference to the recommendations made by the Mission Review Group, chaired by Jackie Austin in 2018.

The minutes of that meeting clearly state that the 2 individual mission partners, Andrew, and Michelle, "should be treated differently from the other 6 organisations."

After 5 years, their situation should be reviewed, to establish whether " they remain in the mission field, and in line with our criteria " and further funding decided then. No mention of a one year gap for them.

As far as I can see from the minutes of MLT and S&F meetings, no such review has taken place, no consultation with her Mission Champion, no investigation as to her current role (which remains largely the same, but with ever increasing responsibilities) and yet she has been dropped in the same way as the two other mission partners.

Tim's letter which largely endorses the points I am making here, seems not to have been fully considered.

I would like the opportunity for this to be discussed fully at the forthcoming PCC meeting".

Discussion

- a) We have supported Michelle for 12 years. To end this support will be difficult for her.
- b) In response to a question, the PCC Secretary explained she didn't originally send out an email from Michelle's Champion because it was addressed to her, not PCC and, in her judgement, didn't serve the best interests of the Champion.
- c) Our principle is always to be consistent, but if the "one year off" system doesn't apply to the long term Mission Partners, we haven't been so in the case of Michelle.
- d) It's important that we get the facts and act fairly. We need time to research the relevant PCC minutes and check the original decision.
- e) There have been no new applications for 5 year support. We should leave this open until we decide about Michelle.
- f) Mission Partner payments are made in increments, so the delay wouldn't inconvenience her financially.

To discuss further in January, after research.

11. ORGAN RECITALS

Tim Moon and David Orsborne were thanked for everything they'd done to get organ recitals up and running again, and much appreciated.

It was **AGREED to run the 2024 organ recitals on similar lines to those adopted in 2023.**

12. HOW WELCOMING ARE WE?

- a) The Vicar suggested we complete an audit from the Living Out group, which helps churches explore how biblically-inclusive they are.
- b) We have an issue in our church about how we address singleness. A good resource is available for a singleness course.
- c) Although we don't want to make an issue about sexuality, we don't want to be in danger of not being inclusive of all. There are other issues like race and social status.
- d) Last year we did an audit for accessibility. This would be following on from that.
- e) Ivan Kimble circulated the questions. PCC members were asked to complete the questionnaire and send their responses to the PCC Secretary who will

collate them.

For further discussion in January.

13. SAFEGUARDING

The report was received.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The report was received.

15. ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

The roll stands at 289.

16. CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

Request from North Norfolk Model Railway Club

- a) A request has been received from Cromer and North Norfolk Model Railway Club to install 2 storage racks on the walls of a side room to the right of the stage in the Parish Hall, This would be done by club members at their expense and is because CCKids will need the room they usually use..
- b) The Wardens met with them and discussed the proposal to use wall racks. They told them that the racks must be out of the way of children, as this room is used as a corridor to the toilets.
- c) The Railway Club have other stored items which will need to be cleared.
- d) The corners of the shelves, which are likely to be glass, will need to be protected..
- e) A diagram and images of the proposed installation had been circulated to PCC.
- f) The proposal was **AGREED**.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday 25 January 2023 at 7.30, at St Martin's.**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.23 pm.