

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 27 August 2020 in the Parish Church

Those present:

Revd W Warren	Revd J Hodgkinson	Mrs J Austin
Mr D Loades	Mr D Masters	Mr B Wigg
Mrs M Howard	Miss A Cottingham	Mr D Orsborne
Mr D Anderson	Dr R Beare	Mr P Bennett
Mrs J Boyle	Ms A Coghlan	Mr J Hodgkinson
Mr R Hopkins	Mr R Loten	Mrs S Morter
Mrs A Orsborne	Mr J Platten	Mr S Purslow
Miss S Wells		

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was chaired by Revd Will Warren. He said that, although it was strange to meet socially distant and wearing face coverings, it was still an opportunity to meet together and consider various issues as we moved forward.

Apologies were received from Mr N Dawson, Mr T Morton and Mrs M Pallister.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

The meeting began with prayer and a reflection on Psalm 46, led by Revd Will Warren:

- a) God protects us and is always ready to help us.
- b) Because of Jesus, God is always present with us.
- c) God gives us peace.

Opening Business

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

Mrs S Morter declared an interest in item 7 because she was one of the furloughed staff.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 27 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- a) Associate Minister: because of the current situation, the Diocese had put this on hold. However, it was still hoped we would be getting a curate in June 2021.
- b) The advice of the Archdeacon was that the 2020 APCM could be written off. We would hold one in 2021. This had implications for members' terms of office, and this would be worked out at a later date.
- c) The Treasurer advised that the 2019 Final Accounts had come back from the Independent Examiner and been signed off in record time this year.

- d) The Treasurer further advised that the spending limit for budget holders was now £750, not £500.
- e) In response to a question from Mr D Masters about the cancelled C2 training, Mrs A Orsborne said that the Diocese would contact us and let us know if we needed more training and when it would be delivered.

6. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 13 AUGUST 2020

The minutes of the Standing and Finance Committee of 13 August 2020 were received.

Church Life and Growth (Action Plan, All)

7. FURLOUGH UPDATE AND RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL

It was **AGREED** that David Shippey should remain on furlough and that Sarah Morter should be brought back for two days per week (currently Wednesday and Thursday).

The furloughing scheme came to an end on 31 October. From 01 September the scheme covered 70% and from 1 October 60%. The Vicar and Wardens proposed that we should make up the difference. This was **AGREED**.

A furlough review was held every 3 weeks.

8. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE DOCUMENT

Members were thanked for contributing to this document which had been based on a grid that the diocese had encouraged all churches to use. Three main areas had particularly emerged in Cromer's response and these were further discussed.

a) FACILITIES

- i. We had some challenges around our facilities. The question about rearranging the interior of the Parish Church to make it a good space for our mission and ministry is still current.
- ii. What do we do with the Parish Hall? Could we sell it and use the money to transform the Parish Church? Mr S Purslow said that, in 1977, a supermarket chain had made an offer for the Hall, but PCC had taken the view that it was worth retaining it. There had also been a feasibility study in the 1990s. However, with the impact of Covid on the retail industry it was unlikely we could sell the Hall easily at the present time. Mrs S Morter believed that there had been more recent interest in purchasing the Hall. Ms A Coghlan said that she would support selling the Parish Hall to raise capital, but Mr D Masters asked how we would accommodate the children's work on Sundays. Mr S Purslow said that a structure could be built on the Parish Church and that there were ways and means to provide space.
- iii. The Treasurer said that, if we were intending to explore this further, we should consider how it would be financed. Most of the heritage grants came from lottery money which PCC had once voted not to accept.

- iv. Despite the fact that giving had increased since lockdown, finance was our immediate problem. Mr D Anderson said that meeting the Parish Share and Mission were higher priorities than facilities.
- v. Facilities and finance couldn't be separated.
- vi. How long can we keep maintaining the boiler in the Parish Church? Whatever system we had would never heat the building efficiently because it was only run for one day a week. We needed something that ticked over all week.
- vii. Mr D Orsborne said that it was important not to do things in a piecemeal way but to look at the whole range of facilities and what we were doing with them.
- viii. Miss S Wells suggested concentrating on one facility.

b) SERVICES

- i. It had been good to meet virtually, but a challenge to keep everyone in the loop.
- ii. The first service in the Parish Church would be on 06 September. It was hoped to live stream this service, but we would still probably be using music videos. The 3.00 pm service at St Martin's was more traditional.
- iii. We had been given an opportunity to review our services. This included the amount of services that were offered. Increasingly, before lockdown, it had been getting difficult to cover them. The 10.45 and Sunday@Seven were a particular challenge.
- iv. Mrs A Orsborne said that we needed to think seriously about Sunday@Seven because it had lost direction. However, Mr J Platten commended this service for its beautiful simplicity with the opportunity for personal prayer.
- v. Mr D Masters said that, if we hold services, we need to define what they were and who they were aimed at.
- vi. Mrs S Morter suggested that we should consider employing a Director of Modern Worship.
- vii. Dr R Beare queried why only 79 people could be accommodated in the Parish Church. Mrs J Austin explained that it was based on 2 metre social distancing and the need to fit in double seats for those from the same household. Chairs at the back would allow flexibility for families, buggies and mobility scooters.

c) PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- i. The numbers of children and young people were not what they'd been in the past and we needed to consider this.
- ii. With Covid, we were very restricted in what we could do with children and young people.
- iii. Mr S Purslow recalled how there used to be a family service in the Parish Hall, but this had given the impression that the Parish Church was an "old" church.
- iv. Mrs A Orsborne reminded PCC that other things, e.g. sport, took place on Sundays and that it tended to be a family day. It had become counter cultural to come to church.

- v. Sue Wells said that if the Parish Church was rearranged, it would give us more scope and be a place where people would want to come.
- vi. Ms A Coghlan said that there was a lot of work to be done. The community was looking to us to provide something. This was a good opportunity to think how we might reach out to families. We should also beware of segregating families from other age groups.
- vii. Revd W Warren said that many churches were facing the same challenges. People doing the children's work have been extra busy with home schooling etc. We should trust in the Lord's sovereignty. It was the Lord who brought people in.
- viii. Mr R Loten said we were a church family and shouldn't segregate people because of age. He had been encouraged by the involvement of the young people in the streamed services.
- ix. Miss S Wells said that we would make no progress unless we got the whole church together for prayer and listening to God.

A time of prayer, led by Revd W Warren, followed.

9. FINANCE

a) Budget Monitoring

- i. An end of year deficit of £10,000 was predicted. This was because of items charged to the repairs and maintenance fund. In reality, the deficit was £34,000. This was not living within our means.
- ii. The previous incumbent had asked for a vision driven budget. Since then, our finances had slowed down and we needed to adopt to the times. We didn't have the finance to be too creative.

b) Designated and Restricted Funds

- i. A transfer had been made to prevent the buildings fund being overdrawn.
- ii. There was money in the unrestricted part of the Project Fund and also in the Clarke Fund. However, we needed to be careful with this.
- iii. The Treasurer had introduced a Mission Fund. In the current situation it was unlikely that we would be doing much mission work, so this was a good opportunity to build up some funds. Cornerstone and Bookstall takings were no longer included in budgeted income and would go into the Mission Fund.

c) Provisional budget for 2021

- i. The Treasurer had defined the items we couldn't do without – heating, lighting, insurance, wages and Parish Share. Without doing any mission work, we would end up with a deficit of £11,700.
- ii. The provisional budget was a work in progress and would be finalised by the end

of October.

- iii. When the present Treasurer took on the role, there was a subjective budget. Members were asked to feedback about whether they would prefer to return to this, or if they liked the present format.

d) Parish Share

Cromer was the third highest paying benefice in the Diocese. The Share for 2021 was just short of £100,000. There was a shortfall between what was paid in and what we had received.

e) Independent Examiner.

The Independent Examiner would have been appointed at the APCM, had it been able to take place. The Treasurer recommended that Larking Gowen should be appointed.

It was **AGREED** that Larking Gowen be appointed our Independent Examiner for the 2020 Final Accounts.

The Treasurer and Sharon Lewin were thanked for their work in these testing times.

11. REPORT ON GENERAL SYNOD

The report was received.

12. ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

The roll stood at 293.

Closing Business

13. CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

- a) A certificate from the Diocese, thanking us for paying our Parish Share, had arrived just before lockdown began.
- b) A letter from CMS, thanking us for our gift of £1,000, had also been received since PCC last met.
- c) Dr P Beazley had resigned from PCC. A letter of thanks would be sent to him.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Revd Will Warren at 9.03 pm.