

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 26 November 2020 at 7.30, via Zoom

Those present:

Revd W Warren	Revd J Hodgkinson	Mrs J Austin
Mr D Loades	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
Mr T Morton	Mrs M Pallister	Mr J Platten
Mr S Purslow	Miss S Wells	

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar.

Apologies were received from Mrs A Orsborne.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

The Vicar began the meeting with prayer and a reflection on Revelation 22. We were approaching Advent – the season when we think of Christ’s second coming. This chapter assures us that one day, He will return. “Yes, I am coming soon”.

Opening Business

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 22 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record after it was noted that Mr N Dawson had not been present.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Reference to Confidential item

6. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF STANDING AND FINANCE ON 26 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes were received.

7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STANDING AND FINANCE ON 11 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes were received.

8. NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD OF 10 OCTOBER 2020

- a) Responding to a request from Mrs M Pallister, Mr D Orsborne shared his screen to enable PCC members to see the document “Towards a Diocesan Vision and Priorities for our life together” and the priorities that flowed from this Vision – Prayerfully, Pastorally and Prophetically.
- b) The Church of England had just launched “Living in Love and Faith” regarding human sexuality and relationships. Local churches would be invited to engage with it at some point. PCC were asked to pray. Jesus welcomed all, but the Scriptures made it clear that marriage was between a man and a woman. General Synod were finding difficulty in discussing the subject and some found it hard to engage with.

Church Life and Growth

9. CONFIDENTIAL

10. STAFFING UPDATE

- a) There was little to be reported at this stage. Conversations with staff were ongoing and PCC members were asked to pray. It was hoped to reach a conclusion in early December.
- b) In response to a question from Mrs M Pallister, the Vicar said that the formal staff review was on hold.
- c) The Director of Music had agreed to go back on the furlough scheme and was amenable to the proposal that he should work on a freelance basis. The next stage was for him to decide on his fees.
- d) Members were asked to email the Vicar if they had further questions.

Finance

11. TO CONFIRM THE ELECTION OF ROGER HOPKINS AS TREASURER

Roger Hopkins had been elected as Treasurer via email and this was formally recorded in the minutes. The Vicar thanked Roger for his willingness to take on this role and thanked Brian Wigg for serving as Treasurer for 7 years. Roger said that he was looking forward to the role and serving until the next APCM. Mrs J Austin advised that there would be a formal handover, after which the newly elected Treasurer would produce Finance reports. The Wardens had received a formal finance report from Sharon Lewin.

12. CHURCH INSURANCE

- a) Mr D Loades advised that we had changed our insurer to Aviva but that our premium had risen significantly. This would be reduced considerably if we installed a roof alarm.
- b) The Diocese’s roll out of roof alarms had now been extended to larger churches. They would install alarms free of charge and we would only pay for an annual service.

- c) Mr S Purslow advised that quotes received from Aviva's recommended firms ranged from £6,784 +VAT to £7,000 + VAT, with additional costs for monitoring. The Diocese was prepared to pay for this, and we should take the opportunity while it was still available.
- d) The following proposal would be sent to PCC members: "PCC agree that we should accept the diocese's offer to install a roof alarm system at the Parish Church free of charge as part of their anti-metal theft scheme using their preferred contractor"

Reports

13. SAFEGUARDING

Alison Orsborne had advised that no children's work had taken place because of Covid restrictions.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- a) The main Health and Safety work this month had been to review the Risk Assessments for the Parish Church and the Parish Office.
- b) It had been identified that the Caretaker should not go up to the Church Office.
- c) Only a very small number of people had the entrance code for the Parish Hall. If someone was alone in the office, they might not know that someone else was in the building. As a matter of course, someone entering the Hall should inform the office as soon as they got to the door and advise when they were leaving.
- d) Mr J Hodgkinson advised that the reference to flushing the water system should read "weekly" rather than "monthly". Dave Walker was also flushing the system at St Martin's on a weekly basis.
- e) Mr J Platten said that the documents were very helpful and practical. He asked if any consideration had been given to a numerical, evaluating approach. Mrs J Austin explained that, at the beginning of the first lockdown, there had been conflicting sets of guidance. It had been decided to use the Church of England guidance and this was their template, although other guidance had been dovetailed into it, and it worked well.
- f) A PCC member with relevant experience was considering taking on the role of Health and Safety Lead.

15. ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

The number on roll was 294.

Closing Business

16. CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

- a) Letter from John Attfield about Mission Partner payments:
 - i. It was helpful to be aware of the strength of feeling that there was.
 - ii. A meeting with the Mission Partner Champions was scheduled for 05 December and the notes would come to PCC as a report.
 - iii. A statement in the Update was needed.
 - iv. Other ways of supporting the Mission Partners would be explored for later.

- v. John Attfield needed to be aware that the Mission Partner payments had been on the basis of 10% of our giving, not 10% of our income.
 - vi. It had been a difficult decision for PCC, and this was reflected in the comments received and the votes that came in. 14 had voted in favour of not paying the Mission Partners, five against and two abstentions.
 - vii. A response would be sent to John Attfield.
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- b) A letter had been received from the Diocese regarding Bishop Jonathan's retirement and inviting churches and individuals to contribute to a gift.
 - c) Future meetings: it might be necessary to meet in December. A decision would be taken at S & F.

The meeting closed with prayer led by the Vicar at 8.45 pm.