

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 21 July 2021 at 7.30 at St Martin's.

Those present:

Revd W Warren	Revd J Hodgkinson	Revd B Rogers
Mrs J Austin	Mr D Tuthill	Mrs M Howard
Miss A Cottingham	Mr D Orsborne	Mr D Anderson
Dr R Beare	Mr J Hodgkinson	Mrs A Orsborne
Mrs M Pallister	Mrs B Stibbons	Miss S Wells

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, who thanked members for making the changed date and for their willingness to attend a physical meeting. He welcomed Revd Ben Rogers to his first PCC meeting.

Apologies were received from Mrs J Boyle, Mr P Bennett, Mr R Hopkins, Mr I Kimble and Mr S Purslow.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

The Vicar opened with a reflection on Ezra 6, which spoke of God's sovereignty. This was particularly pertinent to us at this time, and to the Vision. It is God who builds his church. Things would happen in his timing, and we should remember this when we were feeling discouraged.

A time of open prayer followed.

Opening Business

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24 JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 24 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

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

The Vicar reported that the Profile for the Associate Vicar had gone to the Diocese with additions from Roughton and Felbrigg. We were now waiting for the Bishop of Lynn to confirm interview dates.

6. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF STANDING AND FINANCE 14 JULY 2021

Gifts to the Poor. Jackie Austin had talked with Cromer Cares. They were grateful that we were considering asking them to administer the money from this fund and would be willing to use it within its remit. They will liaise with the Treasurer if we wish to proceed.

7. NOTES FROM MLT 9 JUNE 2021

- a) MLT had met again on 14 July and decided to change the meeting pattern to every other month, and on the first Wednesday. The latter would enable MLT notes to be forwarded to the same month's S & F. The next meeting would be in September.
- b) The Blokes Brekky and the Family Fun Day had both been postponed because of Covid related considerations. However, all 5 outdoor BeachFest activities were going ahead. It was good that 45 volunteers had come forward for BeachFest.
- c) DBS checks arising from BeachFest would be financed from the Scripture Union grant.

8. FINANCE

- a) We were still waiting for Barclays to change the signatories and hadn't heard anything from NatWest. The Treasurer would follow this up.
- b) Our Gift Aid had been received and this enabled us to pay 2 months' Parish Share.
- c) Larking Gowen had supplied the 2019 – 2020 accounts. There was an unallocated sum of £6,000 in the HMRC account which needed to be investigated by Hignett's.
- d) The Budget was where it should be at this time of year.
- e) The Treasurer aimed to produce a one page summary of the budget and could provide extra information on separate pages. No budget lines would be lost.
- f) The Treasurer advised paying things monthly to avoid accruals.
- g) It was **AGREED** that £3,000 should be advanced to the Bookstall for the purchase of books.
- h) Doug was thanked for all his work.

Church Life and Growth

9. THE VISION

The latest version of the draft Vision and the responses to the survey had been provided to members.

Comments on the Summary

- a) Comments had been received about lack of communication. How were we going to share the summary with the church family? The Vicar said he would be happy to put a digest in the Update. Communicating the final Vision would take place on 3 consecutive Sundays, probably in October. The best way to do this would be discussed by PCC.
- b) There had been consensus in some areas of the responses, particularly areas of church life, e.g., buildings, worship styles and families. As a PCC we should spend some time on them.
- c) Further work could be done on the Vision at an Away Day on 11 September. This would be taken forward at the September PCC meeting. The process should be explained to the church family.
- d) We needed to spend some time together seeking to receive so that we were open to what God was saying to us.

- e) A request was made for the Vicar to draw out some thoughts and questions for PCC to consider and pray about over the summer.

Discussion of the draft Vision

a) Our Purpose

- i. Our purpose statement was based on the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.
- ii. The survey response had indicated preference for the third statement “To love Jesus and to share his love with others”. The Vicar was happy to go with this one. Sue Wells said it was very simple and included everything we wanted to say with a breadth which encompassed most areas of church life and worked as a personal and corporate statement. Anne Cottingham said it was the most understandable statement for those outside the church. Sue Wells expressed a preference for a prefix “We are here to...”.
- iii. The purpose statement would be quoted with the logo, letterhead and social media.
- iv. It was **AGREED** to adopt option (c) as our purpose statement.

b) Our Strategy

- i. A lot of people responding to the survey had liked “Reaching out, building up, sending out” because it was clear. However, we should all be doing these things, not leaving the work to others.
- ii. Do we need “sending out”? Or change the words to show that this was for everyone? Going out instead of sending out? Building up needed to happen before sending out. It was important we got it right ourselves before reaching out to others.
- iii. There was an overlap between the actions.
- iv. The ministry of Jesus was “Come”, then “Go”. This is what this statement is derived from. Would “drawing in” be more appropriate?
- v. An earlier vision had said “for the good of the world”
- vi. We will be going out with the Good News but don’t want to presume that we will necessarily attract people into our traditional structures.
- vii. The Bible uses building and agricultural imagery.
- viii. We should be aware of an underlying hurt that needs to be addressed.

c) Our values

- i. The latest version was the one that PCC had preferred. Survey responses also indicated a preference for it.
- ii. There was good visual imagery, but not everyone was sure about “open mouths”. “Open voices” was suggested.
- iii. Before the Away Day we should consider if this worked for everyone at every level – individuals, Small Groups and the whole church.
- iv. “Church family” would be preferable to “church”. It included St Martin’s and not just the church in town.

d) Our vision

- i. There was an element of inspiration in it, but it was not necessarily the finished article.
- ii. Members were asked to think about the word “beyond” “People of Cromer and the wider community” was suggested. We are a resourcing church and a holiday church with “irregular regulars”. Other suggestions were “Cromer, Norfolk and beyond” and “both locally and further afield”.
- iii. The word “transformed” should precede the location. “Transform” was a better word than “change” and it was biblically based.
- v. A further suggestion was made “to see lives and communities transformed by Jesus in Cromer, North Norfolk and beyond.” This should also go through the filter of does it work for everyone at every level – individuals, Small Groups and the whole church.
- iv. Was the vision for us or people outside the church? We should keep this in mind regarding the wording.
- v. The Vicar would crystallise some of this before the Away Day.

10. REVISED VOLUNTEER POLICY

Jackie Austin had taken comments from June PCC and incorporated them. The Policy was backed up by documents from the Church of England website. Ivan and Jackie were working on this and ensuring that implementation of the Policy was manageable.

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Policy and delegate further work to the Wardens.

11. SAFEGUARDING

- a) PCC was responsible for Safeguarding. The Safeguarding Officers were the servants of the PCC. The monthly Safeguarding Report was sent to PCC, as Trustees, by the Safeguarding Officers. PCC should ask questions of the Safeguarding Officers to ensure they were doing what was necessary. Alison and Sue were thanked for their work.
- b) All PCC members must complete CO training online and let Alison know when they had done it. C1 was for those working with children and vulnerable adults and C2 for Small Group leaders. Alison would send out explanatory information.
- c) Promoting a safer church was challenging but essential reading for PCC members.
- d) The Safeguarding Dashboard
 - i. The Safeguarding Dashboard had been innovated during lockdown. It was for logging our safeguarding activities and when they were reported to PCC. The Safeguarding Officers did this on our behalf.
 - ii. It was important that the PCC minutes recorded what we did regarding safeguarding. This included minuting that the Beach Fest sessions were official church activities. Everything we did as a church activity should be recorded on the dashboard.
- e) Safer Recruitment applied to every role we appointed, and the Volunteer Policy reflected this.
- f) PCC must be committed to support the Safeguarding Action Plan. Jackie Austin asked that the document should be amended to show we had 2 Safeguarding

Officers.

- g) It was a good reminder to us all to refresh our memories regarding the Safeguarding policies and documents.
- h) It was **AGREED** to adopt the Policy for recruitment of ex-offenders.
- i) It was **AGREED** to adopt the Policy for Hire of Church Premises.
- j) It was **AGREED** to adopt the Safeguarding Action Plan, subject to amendments regarding BeachFest, namely that the sections on insurance and risk assessment had been completed and minuted at the PCC meeting of 24 June 2021.
- k) It was **AGREED** to approve Cromer Church Kids, Beach Fest and Beach Fest Extra as official church activities.
- l) DBS clearances received since last PCC meeting: Ray Loten, Jill Boyle, John and Anne Attfield, Lynda Brown, Margaret Mary Howard, Janet Rosier, Frances Britton, Revd Ben Rogers, Brenda Stibbons, Sue Brocklehurst, Mike Brown, Eileen Woodfield, Abi Harold, Christine Lockwood, Dorothy Ilines, Claire Warren, Amanda Thomson.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The report was noted. The Wardens and David Anderson were thanked for their work.

13. ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

The roll stood at 286.

14. CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

- a) The PCC Away Day would be on Saturday 11 September at St Martin's

The meeting closed with the Grace at 10.05 pm.