CROMER CHURCH
LOVING JESUS – SHARING HIS LOVE

**CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 7.30pm at St Martin's**

**Members present:** Revd Will Warren (Chair), David Anderson, Judith Anderson, Jill Boyle, Anna Coghlan, Anne Cottingham, John Hodgkinson, Christopher Jacquier, Tracy Johnson, Ivan Kimble, David Loades, Alison Orsborne, David Orsborne, Simon Purslow, Doug Tuthill and Eileen Woodfield.

**Members of the RRR Steering Group were invited to attend for item 4.**
Those present: Jackie Austin, Mary Pallister
Apologies: Rosalind Heydon, John Waddington

P2606-01 **Sung worship, Bible study and Prayer**

SP led PCC in a time of sung worship and WW led a short study on Joshua 14 highlighting the qualities of Caleb, whose example it is good to reflect on and follow. WW noted Caleb's **courage;** Caleb's **confidence** in God's promises; Caleb's **consecration** (v8) which led him to follow the Lord wholeheartedly; and Caleb's **constancy** over more than 40 years of waiting. It would be good if we - as a church and as individuals - demonstrated these same characteristics. This was followed by a short time of prayer.

P2606-02 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for lateness were received from Jill Boyle, and for absence from Hazel Mardlin, Jon Mardlin and Sarah McCandlish.

P2606-03 **Declarations of Interest**

SP declared an interest in item 4, the RRR Building for People Project, as he is paid a fee for his professional work on the project.

P2606-04 **RRR Building for People Project**

WW welcomed Jackie Austin and Mary Pallister to the meeting.

WW gave a brief synopsis of how the project had progressed since its launch in May 2025. He reminded PCC members of the feedback that had been sought from the wider church family, and from the DAC, the Diocesan Chancellor and Historic England, and commented that these had been helpful in further shaping the project, but extremely challenging.

SP reminded members that just 2.5% of the 382,000 Listed Buildings in England have Grade 1 status, and Cromer Parish Church is one of that very small group. The detailed nature of the proposals and the attention to detail noted in the supporting papers are required to justify making changes to a historic, Listed building.

SP then took members through the changes that had been made to the original proposals. These were mostly needed because it had become clear that we would not get approval for the proposed extension on the north side of the church. As a result, all the facilities were now contained within the footprint of the building: toilets in the north porch (with a small plant room and accessible toilet extended into the north-west corner of the church), kitchen and servery and some storage in the north aisle and Vicar's vestry and storage in the Chancel Meeting Room. The extension to the Gallery had been modified and the orientation of the office changed to ensure that sight lines to the west window remained unobstructed.

These changes would mean that we would not need Planning Permission for any of these elements as they would not affect the external appearance of the building.

The changes would probably also result in a saving of c£190,000 compared with the original proposals, although some of this would be eroded by rising costs etc.

The project could be completed in stages, subject to the availability of finance and to the need to maintain essential facilities for use when the Parish Hall is sold.

SP noted that Planning Permission had been sought for the proposed changes to the Parish Hall prior to its sale. The sale of the Meadow Close property is progressing, and the Diocesan Property Team will shortly have the contract to review and sign off.

A lengthy discussion followed during which the following pointed were made:

The need to ensure that the kitchen and servery facilities meet the needs of all potential users, including Cornerstone and the church catering team. Members were reassured that this was in hand. DL suggested that, once the Mission Action Team was restarted, consideration be given to forming a Cornerstone missional team to work alongside the café team.

That proper arrangements are made for cleaning the roof of the kitchen and servery.

The importance of ensuring continuity of office facilities and accommodation for the church secretary and others.

**JB joined the meeting at this point.**

Whether the Faculty application should be 'all-in one' (the Chancellor's preference) or whether separate applications should be made for each 'phase'. DL noted that this is a riskier option (because one application could be approved and the other refused) and IK suggested that the Steering Group should seek further advice.

Several members highlighted the need to involve the wider church family as fully as possible in the details of the project and its progress.

WW proposed the following motion from the Chair:

"That this PCC, having received the update on the Building for People project, notes the consultation undertaken with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Chancellor, Historic England and other consultees; approves the amendments made to the scheme in the light of that consultation; and reaffirms its commitment to the project as presented, recognising its importance in enabling our parish church to better serve the mission and ministry of the parish."

The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**JA and MP left the meeting at this point.**

P2606-05 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 26th March 2026 were unanimously **APPROVED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

JA reported that the recent Welcome Lunch, hosted at Joyce Richardson's home, had gone very well. Six guests attended, mostly younger people. Several were keen to become involved in a Small Group although the mechanism for progressing this (and whether there were spaces in current groups) wasn't clear. WW said that he had been working on developing a discipleship pathway which, he hope, would resolve these issues and ensure better coordination of Small Groups. ACTON: WW

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 23rd April 2026 were unanimously **APPROVED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

The draft minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the APCM held on 23rd April 2026 were **RECEIVED**. They will be formally approved at AMP/APCM in 2027. Issues from the APCM (see Minutes APCM26-09 and S2605-08) have been identified for PCC discussion in coming months.

The minutes of the Standing and Finance Committee (S&F) held on 14th May 2026 were **RECEIVED**. They were formally approved at the S&F meeting on 11th June 2026. There were no matters arising.

The draft minutes of the Standing and Finance Committee (S&F) held on 11th June 2026 were **RECEIVED**. They will be formally approved at the S&F meeting in July.

P2606-06 **Chair's Briefing**

WW updated members on the Associate Vicar appointment.

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE redacted**

P2606-07 **Safeguarding**

The PSOs presented their report, which was **RECEIVED** and their current Action Plan, which was **AGREED.** PCC members were asked to help the PSOs with updating and refining the list of church and non-church activities. Several amendments were suggested at the meeting, and the process will continue over the coming weeks.

PCC NOTED that Eileen will now deal with all Safeguarding matters relating to Mustard Seed and Anna will deal with all Safeguarding matters relating to Cornerstone. Other aspects of their roles are unchanged.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team is coming to audit our Safeguarding provision and procedures in mid-July.

The PSOs are working to populate the parish safeguarding spreadsheet.

Over 300 roles have so far been identified. Fewer than 5 volunteers have stood down because of the increased training and DBS check requirements for some teams.

P2606-08 **Finance**

The Treasurer provided a budget report and an income and expenditure report for the year-to-date. Both showed a healthy financial situation at this stage in the year.

S&F recommended to PCC (S2606-10) that a debit card be authorised for Joanne Pitkin for use for Cornerstone. This was **AGREED** unanimously. ACTION: DT

DT presented a draft Reserves Policy, recommending PCC set aside the equivalent of three-months-worth of expenditure for this purpose. This would currently be c£68,000 After discussion, this was **AGREED** unanimously. S&F was asked to work on the details and bring them back to PCC in due course. ACTION: S&F

DT shared some projections for 2027. Based on the following assumptions (that PCC meets the full cost of the AV and the full Parish Share 'ask'; that all costs associated with the Parish Hall and the Meadow Close property are removed; that Mission Partner payments are suspended; and that other income expenditure remains stable) there would be a budget deficit of £30,000 in 2027 which, DT estimated, would need a c20% uplift in giving to remove. WW stated that he is planning a stewardship focus for October and will follow up with DT and others about how this might be shaped.
ACTION: WW, DT

P2606-09 **LLM Permission**

PCC **unanimously APPROVED** David Masters to continue in his role as Reader. WW will complete the necessary paperwork etc. ACTION: WW

P2606-10 **Correspondence**

i) Mary Pallister had asked that PCC consider sharing Andy Bagwell's report with the wider church family. Members **AGREED** to consider what might be shared and how best to do this. WW suggested that another awayday would be helpful, and could usefully involve the AV. Members **AGREED** and asked S&F to work out the details.
ACTION: WW, S&F, DO

ii) PCC **NOTED** Mary Pallister's concern about our social media presence referred this to the Communications Leadership Team for consideration. ACTION: IK, DO

iii) PCC **RECEIVED** correspondence from Revd Tim Britton, Terry Draper and Glyn and Pamela Purland.

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE redacted**

WW will respond to the correspondents, and Bishop Jane will be informed.

iv) PCC **NOTED** Jonathan Anderson's message about inviting visiting speakers to the 8.45 service. WW noted that this was generally his intention but that it wasn't always possible, for various reasons. The secretary will convey this information to Jonathan.
ACTION: DO

v) PCC **AGREED in principle** to the request from Mary Pallister and Sue Brocklehurst to establish a well-being café arising out of the Kintsugi Hope group but were uncertain whether the location and timing proposed were appropriate. It was AGREED that these matters be further discussed with the churchwardens and resubmitted to PCC. Subject to this, the activity would be recognised as a church event for insurance purposes. The Secretary will let Mary know of this decision. ACTION: DO

vi) PCC **RECEIVED** the proposals and background information from Phil Broughton regarding this year's carnival float. Phil's paper was warmly endorsed and praised for its quality and the work that had, evidently, gone into it. Members welcomed the opportunity of working on a common theme over the summer and suggested that Phil and the All-In Team talk about how this might work next year. It was unanimously

**AGREED** that the float and its involvement at events in the summer be recognised as church activities for insurance purposes and that funds be made available as in previous years to defray the costs incurred by Phil and his team. ACTION: DT

P2606-11 **Reports**

i) The Health and Safety Report was **RECEIVED**.

ii) The Electoral Roll Report was **RECEIVED**. The Roll currently stands at 252.

iii) The report on the Interim Oversight Team at St Martin's will be considered by S&F and brought to PCC in July.

iv) The report from Fabric Leadership Team contained several significant recommendations. SP suggested and members **AGREED** that consideration of this be deferred to the July meeting to allow time for proper discussion.

P2606-12 **Review of the meeting**

Members agreed that the meeting, although long and complex, had been very worthwhile and productive. Patience and perseverance, and thoughtfulness and frankness about difficult matters were the main characteristics noted.

The minutes of items **S2606-06** and **S2606-10(iii)** were deemed to be **CONFIDENTIAL** and will be redacted in the published copies.

**The meeting closed with The Grace at 10.22 p.m.**