

CROMER PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on 19 October 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
Mr D Orsborne	Mr D Anderson	Mr J Hodgkinson
Mrs J Anderson	Mr D Broughton	Mrs S McCandlish
Mrs A Orsborne	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 Anne Cottingham and Brenda Stibbons.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

The meeting began with sung worship led by Simon Purslow and a reflection by the Vicar on Genesis 27.

- a) This chapter tells of how Jacob took his brother's blessing. The tensions in the Middle East can be traced back to this event.
- b) Jacob gave in to the sins of impatience and envy, refusing to wait for God's timing.
- c) We often think we can force God's hand and that is a lack of trust.
- d) In this chapter, we also see God's sovereignty. He is able to override and bring about his purposes.

A time of prayer followed.

Opening Business

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the PCC meeting of 28 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The following matters were arising:

- a) The schedule for installing the sound system will be quite tight, because it can't be done until the scaffolding is down. Ivan Kimble has applied for a type B faculty for the system.
- b) The organ will be protected by efficient dust retention in the worksite, not polythene sheeting.
- c) Kintsugi Hope; no one, to date, has begun the training.
- d) Ivan has fitted a lock to the kitchen door in the Parish Church.

5. MINUTES OF THE STANDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 11 OCTOBER 2023

The double glazing at St Martin's is due for completion on 26 October..

6. NOTES FROM FABRIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (FLT) 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

- a) The recommendations were agreed by PCC on 28 September.
- b) Re-lighting scheme: 4 tenders have been received and one has been selected as best value, quoting c.£48,000 which is within budget. The building contractor will act as Principal Contractor There will be a site meeting with everyone involved.
- c) On 10 October, MCL tested all the heaters and condemned some of the heaters in the Parish Hall and St Martin's. The Parish Hall heaters cost £1,700 and St Martin's £5,000. The St Martin's heaters are relatively new and the manufacturer will replace them free of charge, but we will have to pay for labour. The work should be done on 6 November. This was **AGREED**.
- d) Sash windows in St Martin's Hall: The work could be done, but it was doubtful that anyone could safely open the windows because of their height and weight. Replacement windows wouldn't be value for money considering the short period of time when this is an issue and all the other planned work pending.. We might also need to apply for planning permission. Whether the windows were repaired or replaced, opening them would bring a significant Health and Safety risk. Fans were indicated to provide cool air in the summer months. However, Sarah McCandlish suggested a stable door arrangement in one of the fire doors. This option is worth investigating.

- e) Entrance to the churchyard: David Loades has contacted Highways. They have quoted £68 for a site visit and £260 to paint a white line against the entrance. This was **AGREED**.

Church Life and Growth

7. FINANCE

Budget 2024

Income

- a) The Treasurer has worked with the Wardens and made adjustments to the draft budget.
- b) Planned giving hasn't increased much and it needs to be approached by promoting the Parish Giving Scheme.
- c) The new electronic device for giving has been installed in the Parish Church but is not yet operational. It is expected to increase donations. The Good Box can now be installed at St Martin's.
- d) The Gift Aid claim is going through.
- e) Fundraising will be affected by the closure of the Parish Church but the forecast for Cornerstone has been increased. Joyce Richardson plans to hold occasional coffee mornings with sale of cards and gifts while the church is closed.
- f) Income is very similar to this year.

Expenditure

- a) Mission: income from organ recitals has been moved into Fundraising. The budget agreed for next year's Carnival Float has been added in.
- b) Parish Share: the full amount has been put in the budget, but it would be worth trying to negotiate with the Diocese.
- c) Mustard Seed: the Treasurer will speak to Tracy Johnson. She wants to apply for a grant.
- d) Men's and Women's ministries have been allocated £500 each.

- e) The separate budget line for Vision has been taken out as vision-driven items are covered in other existing budget lines.
- f) The separate line for training has also been taken out and will come under Clergy Expenses.
- g) £500 per church has been put in the maintenance fund for the organs. Anything additional will come out of the Organ Fund.
- h) Repairs and maintenance is an unknown, so the budget has been reduced. There is financial provision for minor works.
- i) Because of Covid etc, we haven't been able to do a major repair each year. FLT will draw up a list of priorities at their next meeting.
- j) Salaries have been adjusted and increased.
- k) The Priest's Room in the Parish Church contains valuable resources that are being spoiled by damp.

The Treasurer has achieved a balanced budget.

It was **AGREED to approve the 2024 budget.**

8. MISSION PARTNER REVIEW

- a) We currently support 6 Mission Partners, each for a period of 3 years. In addition, we support CPAS with an annual donation and have been supporting Andrew Leake and Michelle Proctor for a period of 5 years.
- b) At the end of December 2023, support for the following will end: Tearfund, Canaan, Andrew Leake and Michelle Proctor.
- c) If we follow the same pattern as previous years, we would be aiming to seek nominations for 2 New Mission Partners for 3 years and 2 individuals for 5 years and conduct a ballot in time for them to be ratified by PCC at the November meeting.
- d) On 26 January the current system was a subject of discussion by PCC. It was decided that the current system, where the church family nominate Mission Partners and vote to select 2, has been running well and there has been a high level of engagement, and awareness of Mission Partners. There was no consensus for change, and to review the system again in November. However, November will be too late for our proposed timetable.
- e) We need to consider if the selection process still works well.

Discussion

- a) Some people, in the Parish Church and St Martin's, would like to support certain Mission Partners, e.g. Tearfund, permanently. However, we need to be consistent in our approach.

- b) The system of not being able to nominate a Mission Partner again until a one-year period has elapsed makes it hard for Champions.
- c) Currently we have a good balance of Mission Partners. Maintaining a balance is difficult.
- d) At the moment we no longer have links with organisations we have supported in the past, e.g. London City Mission and Scripture Union.
- e) The original Mission Partner system was set up in about 2010 because we were supporting a large number of Mission Partners at that time. PCC felt that having a smaller number (originally 6) would allow more focus and a greater level of engagement by the church family. Originally, PCC selected Mission Partners from the applications received. The current system allows the wider church family to be more involved.
- f) The system works because everyone concerned realises that support is for a 3-year period. It's different when you are supporting someone in the field. The system doesn't work so well with them. It is easier for the bigger organisations to manage without our support.
- g) We agreed to the current system in 2019. It is too soon to change it.
- h) The system enables the church to give to selected Mission Partners. Many also give as individuals.
- i) Champions must work harder to promote their Mission Partners.
- j) Tearfund is the only global organisation we support but we also support them in different ways, including collections from some of the Christmas services.
- k) Andrew Leake's circumstances have changed and Canaan has changed its role..
- l) If PCC decided to keep, e.g. Michelle Proctor and Canaan, it would bring a danger of pre-empting change.
- m) No overall appetite for change was perceived. It should be reviewed when the system has been running for 5 years.
- n) The PCC Secretary explained that nominations would be sought from 26 October to 5 November, with voting from 9 November to 19 November and ratification by PCC on 23 November.

It was **AGREED to:**

- 1. Retain the current system.**
- 2. Review in October 2024.**

9. ASSOCIATE VICAR

We have a candidate. Interview will take place on 30 October. PCC members were asked to pray.

10. VISION UPDATE

- a) Mustard Seed Plus is a real success and is God-driven. PCC expressed their thanks to Ann Graveling for leading the team.
- b) Drawing in: there had been a good Welcome Meal on Sunday 15 October and 20 people are booked for the next one.
- c) 411 people are on ChurchSuite.
- d) Building up: the Vicar is considering teaching sessions for adults on the 2nd Sunday of each month. He will explore this further after Christmas.
- e) Going out: Christmas provides lots of opportunities, with large numbers of people attending the services. It's important that services are well publicised and that the church family invites people to come..
- f) Going out: it is good that the community is involved with the church.

11. SAFEGUARDING

- a) Alison's suggestion that joint training meetings should be set up for people without computers was an excellent idea.
- b) DBS checks have been received for John Drury and Toni Gregoriou.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The report was received.

13. ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE

The roll stands at 290.

14. CORRESPONDENCE AND DATES

- a) A letter of thanks has been received from Revd Ben Rogers. PCC was urged to pray for Ben, Kate and Elliot as they settle into their new role.
- b) Date of next meeting: **Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7.30, at St Martin's.**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.30 pm.