

PARISH OF ST PETER'S, COLCHESTER

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Monday, July 3, 2023

Chairman: Revd Mark Wallace

1. Opening Bible Reading & Prayer

The Vicar opened the meeting with extracts from Psalm 104, a reflection on a reading (1 Peter 1.1-9), and prayer.

2. Apologies

See Appendix I

3. Declaration of conflicts of interest

Mark Wallace re Item 7

Dan Watts re Item 6

4. Minutes of the previous meeting (May 2)

- a. The previous Minutes were approved as amended and signed by the Vicar.
- b. Wendy Whitfield noted (re Item 4) that a written quotation for work on the Tower Clock is needed, in order to apply for grants. She will pursue this with Alan Gray.

5. Short Reports

Various matters and proposals in the reports were addressed.

a. Vicar's Report

An extra point was added verbally: Stephen and Sheila Lloyd will not be renewing their Diocesan PTO (Permission to Officiate). Implications include a loss of ability to lead services and/or serve communion, although Stephen may be able to preach on a limited basis. An acknowledgment of their service will be forthcoming at a suitable time.

13. *Proposal a*): Guest House Funds. (See Item 11, below.)

15. *Proposal b*): Communion Assistants (See Item 11, below.)

16. *Proposal c*): Mission & Partnerships. (See Item 9, below.)

b. Churchwarden's Report

Trevor Froude reported that a second Churchwarden has agreed to serve. John Hartwell is currently going through the necessary process and will be in post soon.

c. Fabric, Buildings and Redevelopment Report

Wendy Whitfield underlined that although the Redevelopment works are progressing well, there is a delay in delivery of kitchen floor tiles.

A number of pews are currently advertised for sale on ebay, and a few may go to church members.

Wendy was thanked for her long-term, persistent work, including that resulting in the church building's removal from the Historic England At Risk Register.

d. Treasurer's Report and Financial Summary

The Redevelopment shortfall has reduced a little (The Morton Partnership charged less than predicted; some interest gained; £10K grant agreed)

Proposal: That the PCC approve the purchase of a new printer/photocopier (See Church Manager's Report)

Result: Agreed

Proposal: That the PCC approve the transfer of bellringers funds to a 'designated' fund

Result: Agreed

Richard was thanked for his accurate and concise work

e. Church Manager's Report

Proposal: That the PCC approves the people serving as assistants for distributing the communion wine. (See Item 11, below)

Proposal: That the PCC agrees to the purchase of a new photocopier, a Sharp BP60C31FK, provided there is sufficient funding for this. (See Item 5d, above)

Proposal: That the PCC agrees to a gift to Mark Coyne as a thank you for the work he did on revamping the hall, in the form of a £50 Amazon voucher (or similar) or £50 in cash.

Result: Agreed

Proposal: Re wedding bellringing for September wedding ceremony, that the PCC agrees to pay the difference of £32, should the bell ringers agree to the proposal to pay £200 and drop the £50 maintenance on this occasion.

Result: Agreed

f. Safeguarding Report

g. Synod Reports

Diocesan Synod it to report on its net-zero approach.

6. Spotlight Report: Ministry

7. PCC Employment of Mark Wallace from Friday, September 1, 2023

Although little to report, the Churchwarden(s) and the Treasurer will continue to collaborate on a method of employing the Vicar for the outstanding 50% of his time, from September 2023 and in advance of any more independent arrangement. Mark will also join this group.

8. Pattern of communion

A 30-minute 9:00 service on non-eucharistic Sundays (2nd, 4th, 5th in month) is proposed. Discussion centred on the service's nature (perhaps BCP) and the need to monitor any effect on the 10:30 congregation. The PCC fully supports the intention to provide communion every week, but understands that in exceptional circumstance logistics may preclude such a service.

9. Mission & Partnerships

Mark Wallace invited members to suggest overseas partners.

10. PCC Approval of Finance Policy

In response to Charity Commission and Independent Examiner queries, Richard Lawn has written a Finance Policy. Some real-world effects relate to e.g., the counting of donated cash; identification of larger cash gifts (for Gift Aid reasons); the adoption of a 3-monthly internal mini-audit (volunteers invited), starting September.

Proposal: That the PCC approve the adoption of the policy.

Result: Agreed

11. Approval of assistants for communion

Proposal: That the following be approved as communion assistants:

Ed Bradley, Kristin Bradley, Matt Cox, Chris Gray, John Hartwell, Anne Kavanagh, Sheila Lloyd, Stephen Lloyd, Bernice Watts, Wendy Whitfield

The Vicar explained that there are no qualifying criteria as such. Assistants are those in good standing, with a hitherto less than upfront role, and gender balance is sought. The list is updated annually.

Result: Approved

Proposal: To transfer the remaining Guest House Project budget (about £4000) to Beacon House in order to provide funds for occasional unbudgeted accommodation needs.

Result: Approved

12. Correspondence

A note (from an Anthony Barker) re the possibility of applying to the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance for funding to repair the Tower Clock.

13. AOB

None

14. Future meetings

a. Full PCC meetings: September 4, November 6, January 15, March 4, May 13

b. Standing Committee meetings: August 14, October 9, December 18

c. Proposed date for Annual Church Meetings (AMP & APCM)

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; i.e., reverting to a midweek evening.

15. Closing Prayers

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Appendix I

Mr Ed Bradley	present
Mr Duncan Breckels	present
Mr Trevor Froude	present
Mr Tim Hearn	absent
Mrs Anne Kavanagh	present
Dr Mick Kavanagh	present
Mr Richard Lawn	present
Mrs Val Morris	present
Mr Brian New	present
Mrs Clare Reid	present
Revd Mark Wallace	present
Dr Dan Watts	present
Mrs Wendy Whitfield	present