

Amesbury Parochial Church Council

PCC minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 20th July 2022.

- (1) Fr. Darren opened the meeting with prayer.
- (2) **Those present at the meeting:** Fr. Darren A'Court (FrD), Sophie Moody (SM) (Churchwarden), Lisa Courtney (LC)(Hon.Treasurer), Ruth Davies (RD), Alex Fryatt (AF), Julie Lewis (JL), and Andrew Robson (AR)(Hon. Secretary).
- (3) **Apologies** were received from Katie Newham (KN), and John Swindlehurst (JS).
- (4) **Declarations of Interest:** there were none.
- (5) **Approval of the Minutes of Wednesday 22nd June 2022;** these were signed as a correct record.
- (6) **Matters arising.** *References relate to the Minutes of the meeting of June 22nd.*

Item (8.5) It was drawn to our attention that the matter relates to the use of the **CAF Bank** rather than Lloyds Bank. The provision of countersignatories to the CAF account is being addressed.

Item (9) The PCC's next '**Awayday**', a day based in church to reflect on and discuss the needs of the parish and its development, will be on **Saturday 8th October 2022.**

Item (13.4) Arrangements have been made with Michael Nottage, Acting Director of Music, to renew the '**One Licence**' for live streaming.

Item (13.5) **Candles;** SM has listed the various sizes of candles required and is to compile a 'shopping list of candles and other church requisites. AR indicated that he is willing to liaise with Farris's of Mere for these supplies.

Item (13.5.1) Nobody has yet come forward about this matter.

Item (14.1) It has been decided to take no further action.

Item (14.2) The **Living History Project.** RD has been in contact with Moira Parker in connection with a possible concert in church by the Ladies' Community Choir.

Item (14.3) SM is researching the provision of **suitable small tables for coffee cups** and, in the meanwhile, some small round tables have been provided as a temporary measure. It was commented that it has been good to see these being used on Sunday mornings at coffee time.

The matter of the need for a **Parish Condolence Book** was raised. JL volunteered to make enquiries about a suitable item and will liaise with the Town Clerk.

Action: JL.

Fabric

(6.1) (6.2) and (6.3) have been held over until a **special meeting of the PCC** on Tuesday 9th August at 7.30pm when Emma Mullen, our architect, will join us.

(6.4) **The Working Group:** It was emphasised that this group is accountable to the full PCC and that its role is to implement the decisions of the full PCC in relation to its brief.

An initial meeting of the Working Party is to be arranged and Fr. Darren will send out a Doodle poll to establish a practical date for it.

Action: FrD)

(6.5) **The overhead heaters.** SM informed the meeting that the church's usual electrical contractors will undertake the necessary remedial work, and that this is in hand.

Finance

(7.1) **Finance Report:** LC gave us '*headlines*' as follows:

Regular giving is significantly reduced. Everything else is much the same. There is between £400 and £700 each month unallocated, which is a relatively small amount in the overall situation. The necessary professional fees for a Director of Music would, at present, use up all of this. Our Parish Share is £14,700 a quarter. (We have recently been unable to pay this to the diocese.) We still have the £50,000 loan to repay plus 3% interest. The legacy of £35,000 is in the CAF account and is dedicated to funding the tower roof repairs and associated works which, it is anticipated, will exceed the funds available from the legacy. There is £45,000 in Lloyds Bank, some of which will need to be used to supplement the above. We need also to pay the Parish Share to the Diocese. LC commented that to pay out nine months' worth of the Parish Share would wipe out our reserves.

There was a wide ranging conversation about the church's finances and ways they could be improved; Fr Darren observed that fund-raising activity is a necessity in order to meet the church's running costs over and above the parishioners' regular giving; it was concluded that the PCC should now establish a Finance Sub-Committee.

Action: FrD to consult PCC members individually in relation to membership of the Finance Sub-Committee which will include Fr. Darren and Lisa Courtney.

(7.2) The PCC spent some time discussing its response to the diocesan *Fairer Shares* online survey.

Action: AR to complete the online form.

(7.3) **Future funding of the post of Director of Music;** it was concluded that the church is not at present in a position to make such an appointment because of the financial situation, but the PCC is committed in principle to doing so when the funds are suitably improved.

(7.4) Achieving suitable (short-term) **toilet facilities.** SM has been in contact with the Scout Group Leader about the refurbishment of the toilets in the Scout Hut. These would be made available for church use at service times, in liaison with the Scout Group

management, and the PCC is prepared to make a financial contribution to the refurbishment work at the earliest opportunity.

(8.1) **The Archdeacon's Visitation on Thursday 30th June 2022.**

Fr. Darren reported that this was a positive and encouraging Visitation and that the items that need to be addressed will be dealt with within the required timescale. As a result of pressure of time at this meeting it was agreed that this section of items should be dealt with by the Standing Committee, except items (8.2), (8.3), and (8.4) below.

(8.2) List of people for whom the PCC has requested a **DBS check**, with their role (Safeguarding)

Action: (RD)

(8.3) List of people who have undergone **Safeguarding training**, including their role and which modules have been completed (Safeguarding)

Action: (RD)

(8.4) **Diocese of Salisbury Domestic Abuse Policy.** This policy was adopted by the PCC and a copy has been posted on the church notice board.

(9) **Health & Safety**

(9.1) It was noted that local infection rates have increased. It was agreed that we should continue to provide the anti-bacterial hand gel and encourage those who wish to wear masks to do so.

(10) **Safeguarding**

There was nothing to report.

(11) *Outreach*

(11.1) **Air Training Corps Chaplaincy;** Fr. Darren reported that he has been asked to be Chaplain of the ATC Unit at Boscombe Down and that this appointment is currently in process.

(11.2) A **possible concert** by the girls' choir '*Cantemus*'. It was agreed that this idea is worth following up.

Action: AR to discuss the idea further with David Felgate, whose suggestion it is, and Michael Nottage, Acting Director of Music.

(11.3) **GDPR Procedures;** JL has kindly offered to take on the oversight of GDPR and she will liaise with Jeanette A'Court regarding templates for the required forms.

(12) **Any Other Business** (*no items submitted by July 11th*)

(12.1) AF offered to be the **PCC's Deanery Synod Representative** and this was agreed.

(12.2) SM informed the meeting that she is seeking to encourage the Friends of Amesbury Abbey Church to use the church for **fundraising events**.

(12.3) SM reported that it is the church's policy that only **posters** for church activities may be displayed in the church. Fr. Darren reaffirmed that permission for displaying posters inside and outside the church must be sought from the Parish Priest.

(12.4) **Car parking:** There has been a meeting with the management of the Antrobus Arms Hotel; it has been established that the hotel staff are not directing hotel guests to use the church car park. Car passes have now been provided for all those who are authorised to leave a vehicle in the church car park.

(13) The meeting closed with **prayer**.

The next meeting of the PCC will be a special meeting with the architect on **Tuesday 9th August** in church at 7.30pm.

The next regular meeting of the PCC will be on **Wednesday 21st September** in church at 7.30pm.

AR
July 2022.