

**Amesbury Parochial Church Council
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Monday 12th December 2022.**

(1) Father Darren opened the meeting with **prayer**.

(2) Those **present** at the meeting: Fr. Darren A'Court (FrD), Sophie Moody (Churchwarden) (SM), Ruth Davies (RD), Katie Newham (KN), John Swindlehurst (JS), and Andrew Robson (Hon. Secretary) (*by speakerphone link*) (AR). Also present was Emma Mullen, (EM) of St. Ann's Gate Architects.

(3) **Apologies** were received from Lisa Courtney (Hon. Treasurer) (LC).

(4) **Declarations of interest:** there were none declared.

(5) **The Tower Project**

EM spoke of the tender reports and of the need to undertake the project in a window of opportunity between March and July 2023 because of the concern about the potential for disturbance of roosting bats.

It was proposed by SM, seconded by JS, and all were in favour, that Ellis's be awarded the contract for the Tower Project.

Action: EM to confirm with Ellis's.

EM explained the need for the completion of a faculty petition form and it was agreed that FrD, SM, and AR should be included in this action.

(6) **The (stone) shed**

There was a discussion about the need for the repair of this structure; it needs to be made sound and watertight. It is possible that this work could be done under a List B schedule.

Action: EM to advise SM of potential contractors for this work.

It was commented that it might be easier if this work is also done by Ellis's, not least to avoid the complication of two contracting companies working on the site simultaneously.

EM suggested that the ecologists watching for bats should also monitor this outbuilding for their presence, and this was agreed.

Action: EM to arrange for this monitoring to be done.

(7) **The flagpole**

EM advised that the flagpole will be replaced as part of the work to repair the tower roof. The new pole will be secured to the building in a different manner so that it does not penetrate the roof structure.

(8) An internet connection for the church building

EM advised that the PCC should consult a specialist about such an installation. This work could be included in the Tower Project but it is not essential for it to be done at the same time. It is likely to require a dish or transmitter.

Action: EM to advise the PCC regarding a list of suitable contractors.

(9) Lightning protection for the tower.

At present the tower has no lightning protection.

EM suggested that the PCC approach Wallbridge's, lightning protection system contractors, for advice. It would also be a good idea to talk with Rob Churchill, electrician, because it may be that such a development would also require some upgrading to the church's electrical system.

Action: FrD, SM.

(10) Emergency lighting for the tower and the stairway

At present there is no lighting on the stairway and so a torch is required for those intending to use it, most frequently this applies to the bellringing team. It was agreed that there is a need for lighting and an emergency back-up system. The PCC was advised that this work would require a faculty.

Action: SM to contact Rob Churchill of J and M Churchill Electrical, the electrical contractors, to seek a proposal and quote for the work.

(11) The EASA/NCT Young Architect or Surveyor of the Year Award

The PCC was delighted to congratulate Emma on her magnificent achievement in gaining this award which was judged, we understand, at least partly on Emma's work on Amesbury Parish Church. The news that this also involves a forthcoming presentation and a cheque for the PCC for £500.00 is a wonderful bonus.



(12) **Any Other Business**

(12.1) **Permission for the Youth Choir's Pantomime visit to the Salisbury Playhouse**

The PCC agreed to grant permission for this activity to take place.

(12.2) **News of a bequest**

FrD was pleased to inform the PCC of a bequest from the estate of the Late Carol O'Dwyer for £50,000. The PCC expressed their gratitude for this lovely gesture.

Action: (1) AR to liaise with FrD and SM and to write a letter expressing our thanks for this most generous gift and (2) to enquire if any conditions apply to the use of the legacy; (3) KN to liaise with the administrators of the estate regarding arrangements for payment to the PCC's bank account.

(12.3) **The Scout Hut Key and access to the toilets**

A new key is being provided to allow access to the toilets in the Scout HQ.

(12.4) **The cold in church**

SM commented that she is aware that some church members are reluctant to come to church at the moment because it is so cold, and that the Fit for the Future Project should expedite the provision of a suitable new heating system as soon as possible so that, hopefully, by the winter of 2023/24, the work will have been done.

Action: SM and FrD to discuss with EM in due course.

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

The next monthly PCC meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**, in church, 7.15 (coffee) for 7.30pm (start).

Please send **items of AOB** for that meeting by Wednesday 11th January at 6.00pm.

AR

December 2022.