BURY PARISH CHURCH

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PCC HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22ND IN THE KAY ROOM**

**Present:** Diana H in the Chair

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| Hilary Ankers | Eric Duckworth | Kath Pollard | Keith Smith | Owen Thomas |
| John Ankers | Preston Hulse | Nigel Rushworth | Susan Sugden |  |
| Graeme Bigg | Nigel Rushworth | Keith Sedman | Amy Webber |  |
| Derek Calrow | David Hartley | Pat Sedman | Lawrence Yarwood |  |
| Steve Clark | Preston Hulse | Harold Smith | Pat Webber |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Apologies were received from:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rev Rhiannon | David Clarke | Chris Hughes | Pat Uden |  |
| Ken Bowden | David Hartley | Tracy Owen |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**The meeting opened with a prayer from Steve Clark**

**The minutes of the meeting** held on Wednesday November 16th  were accepted as a true and correct record as were those of a special meeting of the PCC held on January 23rd to discuss the Parish Profile

**Exclusions:** it was agreed that under the present circumstances these minutes should be excluded from publication

**Matters arising:** nonethat are not included in the agenda

**Correspondence:** the secretary has received information from the Diocese re upcoming events and training

**Treasurer’s report:** Nigel presented a draft copy of his accounts and report to the APCM. He made the following observations:

* These figures are not yet audited / independently inspected
* Giving through church boxes has almost doubled – due to the introduction of the portable donation “box” (commonly known as the tardis)
* The obvious importance of the car parking and Church House bookings is clear to see
* Weddings and funeral numbers dropped again - seems to be common in most churches
* We have paid the Parish share in full
* £4,164 has been spent on mosaics in church and just short of £10,000 has been paid for interim roof repairs
* £6,800 has been paid in fees relating to the church surrounds
* The new chairs in Church House cost just over £6,000

In conclusion Nigel said that this year we are looking at a loss of around £14,000. This is not a major concern, considering amounts spent on necessary repairs and the fact that it is common to see some fluctuation in margins. However we need to be very watchful of spending in the future given what we know is coming up.

In answer to a question re from Lawrence Y re the 4% fall in Planned Giving, Nigel said most of this is related to numbers in church tending to fall over the past few years – again a national trend.

It was proposed by Pat W. and seconded by Lawrence Y that we accept the accounts. Passed unanimously.

**Committee reports**

**Finance and Fabric**

Minutes for both committees had been circulated and, because of the close connection, Diana spoke to both.

* The problem with the windows in the South Capel blowing is being dealt with and the worst one should be repaired imminently
* The resurfacing of the church surrounds:

1. Historic England, previously known as English Heritage have objected to the planning consent on the grounds that parking of cars so close to the building is harmful. Diana has been in contact with them and although it may be a slow process she is hopeful we can sort the matter.
2. The cost of the works is far higher than John Findon was expecting and he is still intending to talk to Cheetham Hill Construction and to Mike Owen from the Authority.
3. Derek C commented that although money is tight in the L A we should keep pressing them. It was greed that this was the way forward but that we should sort out the planning problem first

* The church roof:

1. The application for the first tranche of money from the Lottery is to go as a submission for May. We have received two tenders and are waiting for the third.
2. Steve C asked about pledges and Nigel said they could be made any time but there was no rush and at some time an Appeal would be launched
3. Lawrence asked about a time frame and Diana said she couldn’t see that, even if we are successful with our first grant application, anything would happen before the back end of 2018.
4. We do not feel there is any risk of internal damage at the moment

**Social** Pat told the meeting that there was a quiz on March 11th and a meeting of the Social committee would be arranged.

**Worship** See attached minutes

Kath P highlighted the Wednesday opening of the church during Advent. It was agreed that this should happen again next year. Possibly on Thursdays and that there should be more advertising at an earlier stage. All in all it was agreed that the venture had been a success. Kath noted that a lot of outstanding business was connected to John and Rhiannon was working through it. Many clergy have expressed a desire to help out during the inter regnum and Lent and Holy Week could present opportunities.

Graeme talked briefly about the new Service sheet for Church Parades and Thanksgiving

( previously circulated). It was agreed that this should be adopted and also agreed that it was a good idea to move the Thanksgiving to the chancel steps and involve children in giving out the Gospel to parents.

**Health and Safety**

Owen mentioned his concerns re lone working within the church. Sensible precautions need to be taken but practical management is an issue. Keith has ordered an additional personal alarm for the vestry and there is already one in the shop. On the positive side Owen has spoken to the Police and they feel that the recent break in is likely to be a one off.

Pat and Owen have met with the surveyor re the Rectory and as a result a further security light is to be installed at the rear of the building. It is recommended that we continue to use the car parking facility in order to give the impression that the house is occupied.

Preston suggested that we give some thought to security in the Church House.

**Interregnum update**

* Parish Profile:

The Standing committee have had meetings and Peter T is now starting to build a hard copy. A few sections still need to be written. Standing Committee will look at progress next Monday

Phil Guest , a member of staff at BCHS has taken photographs and they will be with us by the end of the week. As a thankyou token we are to support his London Marathon Run ( for the charity MIND)

* Church services are sorted up to June – many thanks to Rhiannon
* Kath P asked about confirmation – Bishop Jack will take the service on June 4th. Rhiannon to be asked re training
* Mayoral Sunday – we are awaiting a response from the Town Hall
* Owen and Pat read out a FAQs sheet at all services – thanks to Diana for compiling this

**Parish Reps**

Five people had allowed their names to go forward – John Ankers, Diana Hampson, Preston Hulse, Keith smith and Pat Webber. They left the meeting and a discussion was held as to who would be the most appropriate choices. All agreed that it was a very difficult choice and that all five people would be very suitable. A secret ballot was conducted and John Ankers and Diana Hampson were successful.

**Synod update**

Steve C said that for some time he had been conscious that there was no feedback from Synod to PCC and in order to remedy this had written a brief report which he would continue to do in the future. It is our duty to take things to Synod and vice versa. The new Synod begins in May and we are to elect seven members. Five people have already made their willingness to continue known – Steve C ( chair of Synod), Kath Pollard (Synod Secretary), Lawrence Yarwood ( Diocesan Synod member) and John Ankers and Preston Hulse ( presently Synod members). It was suggested that Steve C might say a few words at Sunday morning service and that we place an article in the magazine and on the weekly pew sheet asking if anyone in the congregation would be interested. All reps will be finally adopted at the APCM.

**Choir report**

Marc had sent an e mail outlining a plan for a Parish Pilgrimage to Carlisle in September. The choir are to sing at evensong that day and are prepared to make all the arrangements for the congregation to join them.

The choir have also been booked to sing at Gloucester Cathedral from august 6th to 12th and will be starting fund raising activities soon.

**Alan Davies** the secretary has written a letter to Alan Davies thanking for his work as Church House manager for seven years.

**Fair Trade Rep** to be held in abeyance for the time being

**Graeme**

Graeme mentioned the following:

* He and Rhiannon had had a conversation re Saturday parking and had agreed that there is a need for some guidelines to be put in place ( problem when there is a wedding etc.)
* Twenty children attended the Christmas Holiday Club - Gingerbread Nativity
* The Diocese are running safeguarding training sessions – many of our PCC are attending one next week
* He is working on a Community Project and has just finished a period of time at St Paul’s. Thinking about beyond August his second placement is still to be arranged
* There will be a Holiday Club in Holy Week

**A O B**

* Steve C said that Ann Joyce had asked that the Walk of Witness would be held on Good Friday starting at 12:00 from the URC.
* Steve C told the meeting that the Away Weekend would be held on October 27 /29th . it would be nice if some members of PCC could attend
* Keith S asked if clarification could be given as to personnel responsible for bookings

1. Pat Uden for concerts etc.
2. Rhiannon for services
3. Keith Sedman for setting up

* Lawrence Y wondered if it would be good to have updates on BCHS – the meeting agreed and deputed Lawrence to do the job
* It was agreed that the secretary should contact Pat Easey to arrange a joint meeting of the PCCs – suitable dates March 7th and 8th

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:18 pm**