

**WEST LITTLETON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY**  
**19 MAY 2021 AT 10 am**  
**AT ST JAMES'S GRANGE**

**Present:** Reverend Sally Wheeler, Chairman  
David Adams  
Carolyn Adams  
James Golob  
Michael Horgan  
Harry Lawrence  
Alan Young  
Sally Young  
Reverend Lynne Godfrey (in attendance)

**Apologies:** Christopher Bell

**1. Chairman's introductory remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There was an apology from Christopher Bell.

**3. Minutes of the PCC meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020**

These were accepted.

**4. Matters arising**

a. Church Recording (Item 4b)

Barbara Mitchard, the team leader, had been in touch 2 weeks ago to explain that everything had been on hold due to the pandemic. She planned to have a meeting with the team shortly to discuss the way ahead. Carolyn Adams kindly agreed to liaise with the team. She said that it was now unlikely that the Arts Society would fund a bound copy of the report. It was felt that it was important to have a formal record, especially as the church inventory had been mislaid several years ago. Subject to quotes, the PCC agreed to fund the production of a bound copy.

**Action: Carolyn Adams**

**5. Benefice Report**

The Chairman highlighted the main points from her report (attached) which had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been many activities sustained in the Benefice during the pandemic and the use of Zoom had been well received by most. Despite the problems of the lockdowns there had been many positives.

## 6. Treasurer's report

Michael Horgan talked the meeting through the spreadsheets. The unencumbered balance at 31 March 2021 was £8725 and the value of the investment portfolio was £36719. The management of the portfolio had transferred from Octopus Investments Limited to Aberdeen Standard Capital Limited (ASC) on 1 April 2021. There was £5000 in the savings account which was due for renewal in July. Given the continued low interest rates it was agreed that the account should be closed at renewal and the balance transferred to the investment portfolio.

It was suggested that we should move to on-line banking. The Chairman said that other parishes had done so and were happy with the system and its security. The Treasurer said he would welcome the idea. James Golob proposed and Harry Lawrence seconded that the PCC should move to on-line banking. This was agreed by all.

**Action: Michael Horgan**

## 7. Fabric

There was nothing to report. All was in good order following the extensive redecorating and pew repairs last year.

## 8. Churchyard: Trees

The larch tree which had been of concern was felled at the end of March. The tree surgeon had expressed concern about the weight on a lower lateral of one of the chestnut trees. This was reduced at the same time. Harry Lawrence had kindly marketed the timber which had resulted in donations to date of £290 to help offset the cost which had been £825. In giving permission for the felling, the Archdeacon had asked the PCC to propose a replacement tree. It was agreed that as the area was already congested this was not appropriate and there was no other site in the churchyard for a new tree. David Adams would inform the Archdeacon.

James Golob felt that the scots pine next to the chestnuts should be properly inspected. Harry Lawrence kindly agreed to take some drone footage to discuss with a tree surgeon.

Harry Meade had asked if the sloping ash tree close to the northern boundary wall adjoining his property could be felled. It was prejudicing the growth of the adjoining beech tree and spoiling its appearance. The ash (clearly self-seeded) was also putting pressure on the wall. Harry Meade has generously offered to pay for the work subject to approval from the Diocese and the Local Planning authority. It was agreed to accept this kind offer and David Adams would take it forward with the Diocese.

Finally, it was agreed to keep the yew trees under review as they might benefit from some reduction.

**Action: David Adams and Harry Lawrence**

## 9. Services

The plan was to return to the normal two services per month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) in June. The Harvest Festival Evensong was provisionally planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.

## 10. Events

- a. **Madrigals.** It had not been possible to hold the concert this year. David Adams had been in touch with the University of Bristol Madrigal Ensemble. It was hoped that we could hold the traditional concert in March 2022.
- b. **Gardens Open.** Once again it was decided that it would be wise to cancel this year. The dates for 2022 are the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**11. Filming in the church**

Red Planet productions had been in touch with a view to using the church for the next two series of “Sanditon”. They visited the church on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and met with David Adams, Carolyn Adams and Harry Lawrence. To date nothing further has been heard.

**12. Any other business**

The Chairman had circulated a proposal for the installation of a hearing loop in the church. There were various options with the basic system costing around £1200. There were several who thought that a loop system was not necessary in our small church. It was agreed to keep the matter under review but that if we decided to go ahead, it was not something for now given the decrease in finances due to the pandemic. In the meantime, the views of those church members with hearing issues would be sought.

**13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be at 7.30 pm on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> November at St James’s Grange.

Rev Sally Wheeler  
Chairman

**To:**

Rev Sally Wheeler  
Carolyn Adams  
David Adams  
Christopher Bell  
James Golob  
Michael Horgan  
Harry Lawrence  
Alan Young  
Sally Young

cc Village website  
Church Folder