

WEST LITTLETON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 pm

AT BUTTS END

Present: Rev Sally Wheeler, Chairman
David Adams
Carolyn Adams
Christopher Bell
James Golob
Michael Horgan
Harry Lawrence
John Mackenzie-Grieve
Alan Young
Sally Young

Item 1- Chairman's introductory remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks to the whole village for the way the church and churchyard were supported and maintained. The Chairman then read a letter of thanks from the Archdeacon thanking us for the warm welcome to the Harvest Festival and for the kind hospitality at the Harvest Supper.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

Item 3 – Minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 1 April 2019

The minutes were accepted without amendment.

Item 4 - Matters arising

a. Display Boards (Item 4a)

The genealogical information was still not complete. After some discussion it was agreed that things had moved on since the idea for the boards was first conceived. Most people were almost certainly using the website for seeking information, probably directly via their 'phones whilst visiting the church. On balance it seemed that the rationale for the boards had changed and it was agreed to drop the idea. Sally Young would advise the genealogist that the website would in future be the sole source of information.

Action: Sally Young

b. Church Recording (Item 4b)

The Severn Valley Arts Society Church Recording Group had completed their work and we should receive the final report shortly. The MU banner is now stored, correctly rolled, in an approved acid free archival box. The box was provided free of charge by the People's History Museum in Manchester. The quote for restoration was c£6000. The PCC confirmed that this was not a viable proposition.

The note of where various church items were stored in the village was in hand.

Action: David Adams

c. Safeguarding (Item 6)

Sally Young updated the meeting. The website and noticeboards were now fully up to date with the required notices. She would be attending a Safeguarding course shortly.

d. Churchyard Management Plan (Item 11)

The revised plan was approved.

Item 5 – Benefice Report

The Chairman said that the Diocese was making the environment a major focus. Marshfield had signed up to the Eco Church scheme. Whilst West Littleton was already pursuing sustainable policies, it was recommended that good practice should be shared across the Benefice.

The Chairman invited participation in the Benefice Weekend Away at Lee Abbey 16-18 October 2020 and mentioned the excellent choral evensongs which were held from time to time in St Mary's, Marshfield.

Item 6 - Treasurer's report

Michael Horgan talked the meeting through the spreadsheets. The unencumbered balance at 31 October 2019 was £15669.24 and the value of the investment portfolio as at 31 October 2019 was £37876. The Treasurer noted that donations and regular giving were down. David Adams agreed to discuss regular giving with new arrivals in the village. The investment portfolio was doing better than money in the bank, but results were not spectacular. It was agreed that this was a satisfactory situation given that the portfolio was intentionally defensive. It was further agreed that given the uncertain market conditions this was not the time to consider anything more aggressive.

Action: David Adams

Item 7 – Parish Share

This item was taken after Item 8 to allow the Committee to take into account any future urgent expenditure on the fabric as recommended by the Quinquennial. It was generally agreed that the form of the request letter from the Diocese did not set the right tone and lacked substantive data to justify the request. The Chairman agreed to take this up with the Diocese.

For some years the PCC has worked on the basis of a contribution of 9.5% of overall Benefice costs (Secretary's note: based on an analysis by the Deanery in 2015) plus an additional sum when funds allowed. It was agreed that this continued to be a sound basis on which to proceed. The Benefice costs for 2020 are projected to be £73000. After some discussion, it was agreed to give £7000 as our basic share (9.5% of £73000 = £6935) and to top this up with an extra contribution of £400. The Chairman outlined the contributions from the other parishes. The result was a total Benefice contribution of £74950. Set against the projected costs of £73000 this would result in a surplus from the Benefice of £1950.

Action: Chairman

Item 8 – Quinquennial Report/Church fabric

The Quinquennial had been carried out on 27th June by our new architect George Chedburn. The conclusion of the report was that the church and churchyard were very well maintained. The only urgent items were the clearance of the valley gutters and a review of the requirement for fire extinguishers. David Adams said that the gutters had already been attended to and that he was in touch with the company responsible for our fire extinguisher. The chancel arch had also been repainted.

The report highlighted a number of areas requiring attention during the next 5 years. It was agreed that a number of these could be left for the time being. Others such as the redecoration of the church and repointing and stone repairs should go ahead. The work on the stonework was already in hand. It was agreed that David Adams and Harry Lawrence should meet with the builder on site to discuss the report in more detail and come up with a plan for consideration by the PCC.

Action: David Adams and Harry Lawrence

Item 9 – Services

The proposed dates for special services through to Easter were confirmed/agreed:

Sunday 8 December	Gift Service 1030 am
Sunday 22 December	Carol Service 6.30pm
Christmas Day	Christmas Service with a shortened Holy Communion 10am
Sunday 12 January	Plough Sunday Service at Marshfield
Friday 10 April	Good Friday Devotional Service (no hymns) 1030am
Sunday 12 April	Easter Day Service 1030am (organist required)

The Carol Service was moved to 6.30 as Tormarton's service was at 5 pm. Our organist, Christopher Bell, will be away over Easter. It was agreed that the Good Friday Service would be without hymns and the Chairman would try to find an organist for Easter Day.

Action: The Chairman

Item 10 – Events

a. Madrigals 2020

David Adams was in touch with the University of Bristol Madrigal Ensemble. They were very much looking forward to returning once more and would come up with some dates (Fridays in March preferred) before the end of the Christmas term. Elizabeth Edwards had kindly agreed to host the supper at Cadwell Hill Barn.

b. Gardens Open 2020

The date for Gardens Open in 2020 was the weekend of 13/14 June.

c. Concert

James Golob was arranging a concert in Marshfield Church on Saturday 30th May. This would include Boccherini's Stabat Mater for Soprano and String Quintet. The question of a further concert at West Littleton was discussed. James Golob would look at the options for the second half of October.

Action: James Golob

Item 11 – Filming in the church

The filming for the ITV series Sanditon included a further two days at St James's in June following the three days in March. The filming had resulted in £5000 for church funds.

Item 12 - Any other business

There was no other business.

Item 13 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 30 March at St James's Grange.

Sally Wheeler
Chairman

To:

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

cc Village Website
Church Folder