

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port

Held on Saturday 21st. September 2024 in Church House at 10.30am.

The meeting began with the Community Thanksgiving Service at 10.00am

Those Present: Nicki Edwards (NE) (Chair); Susan Wales (SW); Paul Springett (Treasurer) (PS); Harold Clarke (HC); Richard Redman (RR); Louisa Hughes (LH); Trevor John (TJ); Linda Mumford (LM); Tone Higgins (TH); David Johnson (DJ); Felicity John (Secretary) (FJ).

Apologies for Absence: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB); Amanda Mackintosh (AM); Graham Sharpless (GS); Anne Salkeld (AS).

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd.June 2024 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record, with no amendments, and duly signed as a true record of the meeting by NE.

Matters Arising:

- The large silver flagon has been dated and is post Cromwell's Commonwealth, therefore less valuable than previously thought
- A photocopier with basic functions has been hired at £104 a quarter.
- All the floodlight bulbs have been replaced with LEDs and there has been a noticeable drop in electricity costs.
- Mark Andrews has not yet been asked about the flagpole – action SW
- It was agreed that the light on the front lawn should be painted and be made electrically safe. The connection to the church supply would need replacing, so should now simply be sealed off and not used. Action - SW

Milborne Wick: AM sent a written report: Wick had a very successful cream tea event on the Bank Holiday week in August....we have our Harvest festival service with Jane Jenes in control coming up this Sunday and this is then followed by our fundraising Harvest supper on Sunday 3 November at 6pm in the church....tickets can be reserved through Amanda

Goathill: The two churches – St John's and St Peter's – will both be parish churches of the new parish. St Peter's will have its own churchwarden. Everything stays the same including the bank account details (queried by PS). The new parish will belong to the Archdeaconry of Wells and the Deanery of Bruton and Cary despite Goathill being in the county of Dorset.

Deanery Synod: NE reported that there had been a positive meeting concerning the proposed reorganisation, that the concerns had been listened to. There was still unhappiness from the parishes of Maperton, Blackford and Compton Pauncefoot. NE is hoping the situation is resolved before Rona finishes her sabbatical.

Matters arising from the Deanery Synod 18.07.24: There is a new calculation of Parish Share to be phased in over 5 years from 2025. It is expected that ours will go up substantially by between 20 and 25%. It will include a "mutuality and generosity" contribution of 15.25% to help support the 30% of benefices which have low population density and/or greatest levels of deprivation. DJ asked PS if he could calculate a guidance for people (recognising differences in ability to pay) re: levels of giving and the costs of running the church day to day. At the moment the

congregation at Milborne Port give £1200 per month before gift aid, which is approximately break-even.

Also discussed were environmental concerns – Milborne Port is already in touch with Dan Wills, the Diocesan Net Zero Enabler.

Finance Update: PS will email the updated accounts – there is no significant increase or decrease – incomes and outgoings are pretty much matched at the moment. He has met with Matthew Pinnock, the Diocesan Advisor. There was feedback about restrictive funds. Any new restrictive funds must be set up with PCC approval and any restrictions already in place cannot be removed except through the Charity Commissioners. An example would be the “Fees Fund” (used to pay retired ministers or architects for example) – this could be run down until there is nothing left in the account, so would essentially cease to exist. St John's cottage is invested in a different fund and will have to be accessed when the cottage needs updating. The members of the PCC are trustees of this account which is why we were required to provide names/addresses/dofb etc – to ensure we are not money-laundering. When bequests/legacies/special gifts are given to the church, they must go to the area specified by the donor. Valuation as of 30 June 2024: CBF Fund £45,768.58; St John's Cottage Fund £9,984.29. NE thanked those who deal with the money – PS, DJ, and RR – for all their commitment and hard work.

Fabric Update: NE approached Daniel Kempf (stonemason). He has been given a digital copy of the Quinquennial Report and is coming in March to make an assessment. SW has not yet heard from Dan Humphries re: the stained glass. SW proposed West Country Tiling of Frome, LM seconded, to spend £5000 on a running repair to the roof and lead work. The roof needs doing properly sooner rather than later (within the next 5 years), and fundraising needs to get going (cost of replacing the nave roof is likely to be £200K - estimated by Toby Pitt of West Country Tiling. This is a ballpark figure.) The conversation needs to be with the congregation and also the wider community. NE is going to investigate grants from English Heritage for Places of Worship. Also needed to be included in the conversation is the need for an updated heating system.

Safeguarding: NE has been on safeguarding training. The training for all PCC members was last done in 2022 and needs updating – this will be the main item of the next meeting, and the focus will be on making our church dementia friendly. We have many kinds of vulnerability apparent in our congregation. The employment of ex-offenders only applies to people we employ which are the verger and the secretary. A risk assessment will be done on any future likely employees.

Health and Safety: There is a lead roof alarm fitted. Those living closest to the church building will be the “observers” and call NE/police if needed – that is LH, TH and HC. The lead is also protected by “Smart Water” – the information on it glows under ultra violet light – and this is a compulsory measure in case of an insurance claim.

AOB:

- The Internet is paid for through Church House Funds. There needs to be a conversation with the CH Committee as the office work goes through it. There needs to be an agreement whereby the benefice can pay a proportion of this.
- Brian McConnell requested that all of Church House toilets be available especially when there is a large funeral.
- SW asked for help setting up on Friday (4th. Oct) for the Church Open/Gift Day – people able to shift boards needed – and also clearing away on Sunday afternoon (6th. Oct.)
- DJ said that his parents' cremation plaque had been scraped – perhaps by a mower (although RH only strims this area). LH suggested we ask those tending their plots not to bring a mower. TJ and the Grasshoppers to assess and consider.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 12.15 pm.

Date of next meeting:

Saturday 23rd November at 10am in Church House with the focus on Safeguarding.