

HOLY CROSS BINSTED

MINUTES OF REORDERING COMMITTEE MEETING

4 MARCH 2021 AT 2pm ON ZOOM

Present: Andrew Hunter Johnston (Chairman), Yann Dubreuil, Kay Hunter Johnston, Nick Carter, Christopher Ogilvie Thompson, Kathy Ogilvie Thompson, Angela Dunne, Helen Macdonald, Piers Wilson, Stella Croom-Johnson, Ben Macdonald (co-opted) and Claire Fargeot (co-opted).

Apologies: Ron Neil.

Yann Dubreuil opened the meeting in prayer.

Piers Wilson, Ben Macdonald and Claire Fargeot were welcomed by the committee.

It was noted that Angela Dunne is secretary to the PCC.

Introduction

It was noted that when the committee last met in 2019, despite its best intentions, its ideas encountered a lot of hostility and misunderstanding. Consequently it was even more important to ensure that the PCC should carry as many of the church members and village as possible with its proposals.

Protocol

The protocol for the committee was agreed:

Minutes will be posted on the Benbinfro website, once they have been approved by the committee and seen by the PCC.

In order to encourage open debate, opinions views expressed in meetings will be summarised and recorded but the individuals involved will not be named.

The committee will aim to come to a common mind on decisions. Individual members may not always agree with the details of what is decided but it is important that we reach a majority decision and, once a decision is taken, that members stand by it and respect that decision.

After committee discussion, proposals will be formally proposed and seconded, and the decision, together with the numbers voting for and against, will be recorded in the minutes.

The committee's role is advisory only: its recommendations will be put forward to the PCC for consideration by the PCC. The final decision on whether to proceed with the recommendation is taken by the PCC.

Communication is really important, so the committee must continue to be as open as possible about what is recommended to the PCC. The committee should therefore continue to share its recommendations with church members and the village generally, to ensure that people understand what the church is contemplating doing and why. Claire Fargeot offered to act as the contact for the

group to liaise with people from both the church and the wider village. This should help us in our efforts to improve two-way communication. This was agreed unanimously.

Scope of the committee

As agreed by the PCC, this is to consider, and is limited to, the following:

- Toilets and baby-changing facilities
- Full disabled access into the church
- Hot water and storage for providing after service refreshments and
- Better audio-visual and internet facilities to enable the streaming of services etc. to those unable to attend in person

There was some discussion about other concerns from the original reordering plan, which had been raised in feedback from some members of the congregation. It was agreed that related correspondence in late-2019 should be circulated to the committee.

The concerns raised mainly centred on the potential future use of the Westcote Chapel. However, the committee was reminded that our immediate remit is limited to the four items above so the Westcote Chapel falls outside our current scope – unless knock-on effects from our proposals mean they need to be taken into consideration.

Other elements of the original reordering plan may be considered by the PCC at a later date. When they are, they will be re-examined in detail.

Toilets, full disabled access and after service refreshments

It was agreed that the committee should revisit these proposals with an open mind, looking forwards not backwards, on the basis that the majority of church members acknowledge that Holy Cross needs toilets and full disabled access. As the congregation is getting older, these needs are becoming more acute. The committee should concentrate on changes which can be done quickly and easily, ensuring that any change is sustainable in the future, and bearing in mind that changes in one area can have a knock-on effect in another.

The opportunity to provide after service refreshments needs to be reviewed in the light of future requirements.

It was proposed that the plans submitted to the committee both by Antony Feltham-King, the reordering architect, and by Ben Macdonald, should be re-circulated and reviewed at the next meeting although we are not constrained to just these two options. This proposal was passed unanimously.

Audio-visual and internet facilities

Broadband quotes are currently being obtained by the PCC. Appropriate good quality audio-visual equipment is needed so that weddings and funerals and other services can be streamed as necessary. This has been much welcomed at Bentley.

Next meeting: 19 March 2021 at 3pm.

Yann Dubreuil closed in prayer.

Actions

- All to re-read the options analysis document to refresh our memories on the reasons behind the different decisions for what we are doing.
- KHJ to circulate the plans for the toilets from AFK and BM in time for committee members to familiarize themselves with them before the next meeting.

Decisions

- All decisions to be voted on and recorded (with numbers for and against) in the minutes. **Agreed unanimously.**
- KHJ will be responsible for circulating the minutes of the Reordering Committee which will include a brief explanation of the decisions taken and their potential impact. Once the PCC have seen them and had the opportunity to respond these will be uploaded to the Benbinfro website. **Agreed unanimously.**
- KHJ will draft a simple update every month for the Parish Magazine. She will send this to the churchwardens for review and comment before it is submitted to Gemma. **Agreed unanimously.**
- Drawings and details for both sets of plans for the toilets (AFK and BM) to be circulated to the committee prior to the next meeting for review at that meeting. **Agreed unanimously.**
- Claire Fargeot will act as the contact for the group to liaise with people from both the church and the wider village to help us in our efforts to improve two-way communication. **Agreed unanimously.**