

Holy Cross Church Binsted Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th March 2023 at 2.00pm at Manor Cottage in Blacknest the home of Angela & Nial Dunne

Those present: Rev Matt Boyes [Chairman]; Stella Croom-Johnson: [Deputy Chairman & Church Warden joined on zoom]; Christopher Ogilvie Thompson [Assistant Priest] Kathy Ogilvie Thompson; Andrew Croom-Johnson [Treasurer]; Pam Smith; Andrew Hunter Johnston; Kay Hunter Johnston; Jonathan Bourne; Angela Dunne [Secretary]

		Action
	<p>Welcome and opening Prayer MB opened the meeting with a Psalm reading and a prayer</p>	
1	<p>Apologies Cathie Weldon and Nick Carter</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 6.2.2023 Approved and signed by MB The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13.3.2023 It was agreed to amend the target sum needed to fundraise for the toilet project to £150,000. The minutes were then approved and signed by MB</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising from previous PCC minutes</p> <p>5.2 [f] Friends of Binsted Church from 7.11.2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that KHJ prepare a draft trust deed for the friends scheme which can be discussed and approved at a future PCC meeting. • JB volunteered to be a trustee of the new scheme. • The purpose of the scheme would be to raise money for the general fabric of the church and future fundraising projects. • Members of the committee were asked to continue thinking of members of the community who we could ask to be involved in the scheme. It was agreed that there should be a balance of church members and people who had an interest in Holy Cross Church as a historical grade 1 listed building. • JB said that he had had a conversation with the manager at the Binsted Inn regarding holding a future men's "breakfast". Gerald Taylor [who has experience of organising these in the past] has offered to be involved. • JB said that a Spire Appeal leaflet with a donation QR code is displayed on the bar at the Binsted Inn. <p>5 [c] Churchyard gardener from 6.2.2023 – NC had emailed AD the following information. James Tallent had quoted £150 to cut and strim the churchyard grass except the far end where the old graves are, beyond the yew trees. The area beyond this [where the community Payback team used to cover]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KHJ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p>

would be an additional £150. He recommended that both parts would be need to done fortnightly in the main growing season.

- NC had obtained an additional quote but established that this was too expensive.

KOT reminded the committee that the church does receive a grant from the Parish Council of £1,500 which usually covers the cost of the work throughout the growing season.

JB asked if NC could obtain how many “man hours” of work could be done for £1,500. It was noted that James Tallent mows the churchyard in Bentley and he does a good job clearing away the “cuttings.”

KOT suggested that a sign is made next to a donation box asking visitors who come to the churchyard, [then go inside the church] for a voluntary contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard. All agreed that this was a good idea.

NC

KOT

10[b] Organ update – from 6.2.2023

AHJ reported that on 4th March the churchwardens and others had met Colin Harvey, the Organ Advisor from Winchester Diocese. He was generally rather negative towards electronic instruments but, once we had explained our needs and the budget available, was more sympathetic. He has subsequently reverted to propose installing a particular pipe organ, now redundant from a church in Yorkshire, which he thought would work well in a position in front of the tower at the West end of the nave. After some discussion it was agreed to decline this proposal and seek to continue with the purchase of the electronic organ as previously discussed and agreed upon.

AHJ commented that, although many older electronic instruments are now being replaced, the newer ones are generally of a higher quality with improved software, sound and reliability.

It was proposed by KHJ and seconded by KOT that, “having understood the pros and cons between the different organ types, the preference is to purchase an electronic organ rather than a re-furbished pipe organ. The electronic organ will meet our current and future anticipated needs.” All agreed.

AHJ to write a letter to the organ advisor declining his advice.

KHJ said that she would include this dismissal with detailed reasons in her new option and analysis statement. SCJ requested a copy of this which will help towards submitting the revisions to the faculty.

It was requested that AHJ contact the electronic organ company regarding the sale of the organ to verify they will continue to keep the organ for us.

AHJ

KHJ

11.1 Churchyard extension from 6.2.2023 KOT confirmed that planning notices had been put up in the churchyard regarding the online application submitted for the change of use to extend the graveyard provision. After this period has expired (which gives people the opportunity to contact the authority with any objections), a decision will be pending, hopefully within 4-6 weeks from now. KOT will then consult with John Stephens who currently farms the land and agree on the positioning of a new fence, levelling of the land and new grass sown.

KOT

Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting – 13.3.2023

KOT apologised that she was unable to attend the extraordinary meeting but had read the minutes with interest and expressed her view that she felt

	<p>uncomfortable with the suspension of paying our Parish Share. MB reassured her that this is a temporary measure as our finances have a “cash flow” problem at the moment. It is very much hoped that the payment will resume in the near future and that a repayment is made.</p> <p>MB said that he will be communicating to church members at the APCM that the church is running at a loss and that he will be encouraging people to review and increase their giving.</p>	
4	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>[a] Susan had sent her safeguarding report to the Secretary. AD read out the following information from Susan.</p> <p>Please report that we are continuing to meet monthly as PSOs from Bentley, Froyle and Binsted with a view to work together more closely.</p> <p>We are intending to make joint statements at the upcoming APCMs and are looking at recording concerns centrally and securely via our individual safeguarding email addresses which can then be passed on once we leave post.</p> <p>We will also be putting posters outlining our roles in each church once final wording has been agreed.</p> <p>NB No safeguarding issues had been reported.</p>	Susan Bourne
5	<p>Finance-</p> <p>5.1 Report from the Treasurer - ACJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Accounts for year ended 31st December 2022 circulated before meeting. A few amendments to spelling and Administration Information made. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Approved – proposed PS Seconded KHJ – unanimous vote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s working document re day-to-day financial position was circulated for information • After taking into account a duplicated credit and monies due to Restricted funds c/a balance as at 17/3/23 was £15,828.17 • So far in 2023 we have received non regular income payments of £2,066.75 (loss of income claim), £3,479.45 (Gift Aid), 2 x £878 (funerals – some monies due to Diocese) • Refund on Gas bill of £1,267.55 received following identification of incorrect vat charges. Gas account currently in credit £453.06 which will offset March’s bill. • O/S invoices due to Imperial Construction amount to £38,200.48. This includes scaffolding costs for period 20/3/23 to 19/4/23 • VAT refund claim to be submitted <p>Tower & Spire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have insufficient funds to pay for all the work on the Tower/Spire. A generous parishioner has offered an interest free loan of £35,000 to allow for the work to be completed. Loan to be repaid by 24/3/24. Full terms and conditions were discussed. • Loan approved by PCC – Proposed JB Seconded KHJ – unanimous vote • When loan monies received in our account, outstanding invoices will be paid. Paid 21/3/23 	

	<p>Due to our current financial position and cashflow situation, we have requested that we suspend our monthly Parish Share payments. This has been agreed by the Diocese. It is our intention to make this short term and to ultimately make up payments.</p> <p>MB thanked Andrew for all his hard work keeping up to date with the accounts.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Feedback on recent events</p> <p>6.1 Ash Wednesday service in Binsted – this was attended and appreciate by those who did attend.</p> <p>6.2 Lent lunches in progress – unfortunately the attendance to these have been rather disappointing. After some discussion it was decided that a fuller explanation of Lent, and the purpose of a Lent lunch is given in the parish magazine. In addition, it was agreed that the lunches should take place in homes rather than the village halls but continue to be shared between the villages and to include Kingsley and Oakhanger next year.</p> <p>6.3 Messy church 19.3.2023 – this was well attended with new families. AD requested that she needs someone else to assist her lead the sessions.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Planning Ahead for Future Events</p> <p>7.1 Maundy service at Froyle at 5.30pm and Passover meal at Bentley at 7pm</p> <p>7.2 FOBS Easter Fair – Saturday 25th March – 2.30 – 4.30pm AD thanked all who had offered to help, details had been sent to them. More volunteers welcome. AD to liaise.</p> <p>7.3 Easter: Good Friday – 7th April meditation service at Binsted 12 – 3pm 20-minute sessions led by Matt. People can attend some or all of the sessions.</p> <p>7.4. Easter Day – 9th April 9.30am HC service at Binsted</p> <p>7.5 Churchyard working party morning on Saturday 22nd April – more volunteers needed. This will be advised on the community FB page. AD suggested that a notice is made to advertise it is happening and displayed inside the church for families to see during the school Easter fair.</p> <p>7.6 APCM -23rd April – this will take place after the 9.30 service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports to AD by Friday 14th April. AD to distribute these electronically to the congregation, prior to the meeting to and print a few paper copies to be available at the meeting. • AD to put up the advanced notice of the APCM taking place in the church porch. • Invite people to join the electoral role <p>7.8 Coronation weekend 6th- 8th May There will not be a service in Binsted on 7th May. The service pattern states a service in Bentley and Oakhanger. There is a community tea party on the recreation ground during the afternoon 7th May</p>	<p>AD</p> <p>MB</p> <p>AD</p> <p>AD</p> <p>NC</p> <p>MB</p> <p>COT</p>

	<p>7.9 24/7 Prayer week 21st -28th May [Prayer stations] COT will send out details asking for groups to make prayer stations. However, this year the Prayer room will not be open 24/7</p> <p>7.10 17th June Bishop David visiting Binsted school to commemorate the school's 150th anniversary.</p> <p>7.11 Binsted fete – 8th July – AD had sent out details to the PCC prior to the meeting regarding a sharing of ideas which took place with the organisers of Bentley's Church stall at the fete which CW attended. Pippa has had a conversation with AD regarding this. It is urgently needed to appoint a co-ordinator to liaise with Pippa. [AD is away at her God daughter's wedding in Yorkshire]</p> <p>7.12 Ride and Stride – 9th September</p> <p>7.13 October Parish weekend away</p> <p>Fundraising A lot of time was spent discussing the Friend's scheme. The spire appeal is underway and donations are coming forward.</p>	<p>WHO?</p> <p>SCJ MB tba</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Single Parish MB reported that negotiations are on-going. In addition, he said that the working parties are meeting or have met, and he encouraged us all to attend with our thoughts and ideas.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Fabric Report SCJ had sent out her fabric report to all members of the PCC prior to the meeting. A copy of which is in the minute file. However, nobody noticed the secretary's error that February's report was sent instead of the up to date March report. The correct report was sent out the next day. However, SCJ did summarise her report and the following actions were taken.</p> <p>[a] A retrospective approval was requested for the payment of £2,270 for the painting to the ceiling and masonry in the Lady Chapel. [It was necessary to do this work as it was historical damage and it was taking advantage of not having to pay for the scaffolding and paint, but the "man" hours only.]</p> <p>This was proposed by KOT Seconded by AHJ. All agreed.</p> <p>[b] PCC approval was sought for the emergency work required on the spire and the tower. It has been necessary to give permission for the works to begin for safety concerns and issues. Specific details were outlined in SCJ's report [see below]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency removal of weathervane for safety reasons: £10127.20 (completed and billed) • Scaffolding for emergency repairs to spire (needed to make spire and tower watertight following removal of weathervane): £9815.00 (installed and billed) • Replacement of slipped/missing tiles to spire £2145.00 (quoted not yet billed) • Lead repairs to outer broaches of the spire £645 (quoted not yet billed) 	

	<p>This was proposed by COT and seconded by JB. All agreed.</p> <p>In addition, quotes have been sought and are still awaited for the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair/replacement of rotted wood at top of spire that should have been supporting the weathervane (but wasn't). This will need to be done as this (together with the weathervane) is what creates the watertight seal at the top of the spire. Hard to guess, but estimated at £5000 • Beetle treatment to any wood not being replaced but which has shown evidence of beetle infestation (there is a certain amount of this!) Estimate ~£1000 • Repair/replacement of the weathervane. Estimate ~£5000-£10,000. It might be cheaper just to replace this. <p>[c] Inventory – SCJ has been working tirelessly and diligently on updating the Terrier and Inventory. She has been working on a “heavily annotated copy of the inventory” from 1996. SCJ sent the PCC members the updated copy of the Inventory prior to the meeting. The PCC were required to approve an annual return of additions and deletions to the Terrier and Inventory. [Details are in SCJ’s report and shown in the document.] SCJ proposed the changes and this was Seconded by COT. All agreed.</p> <p>SCJ was thanked for her hard work in getting this information up to date. Now that formal approval has been given. SCJ will submit a faculty for the up-to-date inventory to be approved by the Diocese.</p>	<p>SCJ</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Toilet Project Update</p> <p>[a] It was proposed to retain Antony Feltham-King as the architect for the next stage of the toilet project and for him to advise and develop plans to be submitted for pre-planning. AFK costs of £1,250 + VAT to do this work was also recommended to the PCC committee. Propose by KOT seconded by AHJ All agreed.</p> <p>[b] MB to write to Ben MacDonald thanking him for his time, ideas, drawings and suggestions regarding the new proposed toilet block but that it had been decided to continue with AFK as our architect and that he would submit plans in the near future.</p> <p>[c] MB to ask Ron Neil if he would still like to be involved in the project.</p> <p>[d] MB and AHJ to meet to re-designate and constitute the Re-ordering committee. It was agreed that the committee is too big for the next stage of the project which will be to finalise the design and oversee the implementation of the building with PCC approval.</p>	<p>AHJ KHJ</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB AHJ</p>

11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>[a] NC requested that a new lock is fitted to the Westcott door so that new keys can be made and distributed to those who have a “clear and legitimate need.” This was discussed and if was agreed there is no immediate urgency as the church is due be properly open again later this week. It was agreed, that this would be desirable for the future as there may be other occasions when we want to close off the chapel. It was noted that a faculty would need to be applied for before we can do this.</p> <p>[b] SCJ confirmed that the archaeologist has agreed the scheme for the tower with AFK</p> <p>[c] KHJ said tha.t the Montgomery family had been very generous in their gift aid donation. It was agreed that any surplus money they had donated to the repairs to Monty’s banner will be put towards the repairs in the tower.</p> <p>[d] SCJ confirmed that the conservator will be restoring the banner in the Lady Chapel the week before Easter and not the week after. Visitors are welcome.</p> <p>[e] Gemma is including details of the Spire Appeal in the April edition of the parish magazine. SCJ to liaise this week.</p>	SCJ
12	<p>Dates and venues of next meeting</p> <p>APCM 23rd April after the 9.30 service in Holy Cross church Binsted</p>	
	COT closed the meeting with a prayer.	
	The meeting closed at 4.50pm	