

WEST LITTLETON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 pm
AT HARCOMBE FARM BARN

Present:

Rev Sally Wheeler, Chairman
David Adams
Carolyn Adams
Christopher Bell
James Golob
Michael Horgan
John Mackenzie-Grieve
Elizabeth Sandeman
Alan Young

Apologies: David Sandeman

Item 1- Chairman's introductory remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Elizabeth Sandeman for hosting it.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

There was an apology from David Sandeman

Item 3 – Minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 7 November 2016

The minutes were accepted without amendment.

Item 4 - Matters arising

a. Display Boards (Item 4a)

Alan Young reported that the work was continuing. Although the format of the boards had been agreed there was still much research and layout to be completed.

b. Church Recording (Item 4b)

Carolyn Adams reported that the Severn Valley NADFAS church recording coordinator had been unwell. There was still recording at two churches to be completed before work could start at St James's.

c. Document Storage (Item 4c)

A number of plastic boxes containing documents were now stored with John Mackenzie-Grieve.

d. Digital Storage (Item 4d)

Alan Creighton continued to put in many hours to transfer important documents to Dropbox. A hard drive had been purchased and all the material on Dropbox was

backed up. The Chairman asked for a note of thanks to be recorded to Alan Creighton for all the continued time and effort he was putting into this project.

e. Green Energy (Item 4e)

Elizabeth Sandeman reported that our supplier did not use green energy but the contract had just been renewed for three years at very favourable rates. The matter of transferring to a green energy supplier would be kept under review.

f. Organ speakers (Item 4f)

The speakers had been installed and were considered to be a great success. The Chairman thanked Christopher Bell for generously underwriting the cost.

g. Commonwealth War Grave (Item 11)

The installation of a CWG sign by the church gate had been approved by the Archdeacon but it had not yet been fitted. The war grave has been cleaned (by the CWG) and was now in excellent condition.

Item 5 – Benefice Report

This had largely been covered in the Incumbent's Report at the APCM. The Reverend Ness Whiffin was on loan to Bybrook and it was quite possible that she would not return. The Chairman briefed the meeting about the situation at Cold Ashton following the attempted theft of lead from the roof in November. The insurers would not cover everything as the Cold Ashton PCC had opted not to install a roof alarm. David Adams said that our insurers (Ecclesiastical) had carried out a survey of the church last year and had not made any specific recommendations. The church at Cold Ashton was expected to reopen for Easter.

Secretary's Note: Our cover is £1,555,000 for buildings and £40,000 for contents. The theft of external metal (small amount of lead, gutters and downpipes) is not covered.

Item 6 - Treasurer's report

Michael Horgan reported that the projected cash flow to 31 December 2017 showed a surplus for the year approaching £4500. The unencumbered balance at 31 March was £9033.96 and the value of the investment portfolio £26588.13. This included the further £10,000 which had been transferred to the investment portfolio in January. There had also been a £400 growth in the portfolio since December 2016.

Item 7 - Church fabric

This had been covered under Item 4 of the APCM

Item 8 – Services

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

11 th June	Benefice Evensong (Gardens Open) at 6.15 pm
24 th September	Harvest Festival at 6 pm
10 th December	Gift Service at 1030 am
17 th December	Carol Service at 6 pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion at 10 am

Item 9 – Events

a. Shoot

No decision had been taken but it was hoped that a Shoot would be held this year (end September/early October).

b. Harvest Supper

This would follow the Harvest Festival to be held on 24 September. Venue to be decided (Angela Meade had indicated that she might hold it this year).

c. Concert in October

James Golob said that following the success of last year’s concert by the Academy of Ancient Music he would be prepared to organise another this year. Everyone agreed that it would be an excellent idea. James Golob agreed to take it forward and noted that the preferred date would be towards the end of October.

Action: James Golob

d. Madrigals 2017

The annual concert had been held on 24th March and was a great success. A note of thanks was recorded to Elizabeth Edwards for hosting the supper after the concert and to all those who helped and contributed in one way or another. Over £1100 had been raised for the church.

Carolyn Adams said that several people attending the supper over the last 3 years have said we should charge more for the food and she wondered whether we could justify £15 a head for those from outside the village, keeping £10 for those from West Littleton, who in the main had also generously prepared the food. The majority felt that this would be divisive and difficult to manage. The £15 charge had also been suggested by someone else within WL. Carolyn Adams said that it was difficult to assess how many people had paid and what contributions had been made towards the wine and would it not be a good idea to have separate baskets for the supper charge and another for wine donations to make it easier to assess the numbers.

Michael Horgan, who had been collecting the money, said that he assessed that around 65 had paid for supper (this seemed about right with an attendance in church of 75 and a number of people who did not attend the supper). If this was the case then around £100 had been paid in addition towards the wine (for the past four years the wine has been provided by several donors with the express intention of avoiding complex

charging arrangements and the need to have someone supervising the wine throughout the evening). The Chairman said that the announcement at the beginning of the concert pointing out that those attending the supper were being asked to make a contribution towards the wine based on their consumption seemed to strike the right balance.

The discussion then returned to Carolyn Adams's suggestion that we should charge more for the supper and tighten up the arrangements for collecting money for the wine. The majority view was that the current system worked well and that the aim of the evening was not to maximise the profit but to provide an enjoyable and affordable evening for all. It was pointed out that to charge more for the supper would probably result in a reduction in the retiring collection. The Madrigal Concert had raised over £1000 for the church in each of the last three years.

d. Gardens Open 2017 (10/11 June)

Carolyn Adams said that the Ukulele Group which had been such a success last year would be returning. She was also hopeful that a number of musicians from Marshfield would be able to play.

Item 10 - Any other business

There were three items of other business:

a. Memorial bench for Caroline Chrisp

David Chrisp had generously made a donation of £1000 to the PCC, part of which he wished to be used to purchase a bench in memory of his wife Caroline. The PCC members recorded their sincere thanks for this most generous gift and gave formal approval for the bench subject to written approval from the Archdeacon as this item does not require a faculty.

b. Contribution to Uganda visit by the Mukono Diocese

The Deanery had asked if each parish should make a donation of £50 towards the expenses of the two members of the Mukono Diocese who planned to visit in May. The Chairman said that the visit had been postponed, probably until September, due to visa problems. Nevertheless, it was agreed that we would contribute £50 if the visit took place.

c. Singing practice

Christopher Bell asked if there was any enthusiasm for having further singing practices. Elizabeth Sandeman agreed to investigate.

Action: Elizabeth Sandeman

Item 11 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 pm on 6th November 2017 at St James's Grange.

Sally Wheeler
Chairman

To:

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

cc VillageWebsite
Church Folder