

WEST LITTLETON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2014 AT
7.30 pm
AT ST JAMES'S GRANGE, WEST LITTLETON

Present: David Adams, Acting Chairman
Carolyn Adams
Michael Horgan
Elizabeth Sandeman
David Sandeman
Rev Sally Wheeler

In attendance: Rev Ness Whiffin

Apologies: Christopher Bell
John Mackenzie-Grieve
Richard Meade
Alan Young

Item 1- Chairman's introductory remarks

David Adams (acting chairman) thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Rev Ness Whiffin, our curate, who was attending for the first time.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Richard Meade, Christopher Bell, John Mackenzie-Grieve and Alan Young.

Item 3 – Minutes of previous meetings

a. Minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 7 April 2014

The minutes were accepted without amendment.

b. Minutes of PCC meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2014

The minutes were accepted without amendment.

Item 4 - Matters arising

7 April

a. Disposal of old harmonium (Item 4a)

Elizabeth Sandeman kindly offered to advertise the harmonium through Freecycle. David Adams would provide some photographs.

Action: Elizabeth Sandeman and David Adams

b. Shed and northern churchyard boundary wall (Item 4d)

Adrian Packer would be removing and storing the tiles from the shed this week. Much of the rubbish had been removed. The condition of the boundary wall would be monitored.

Secretary's Note: The work on the shed was completed on 7 October.

10 June

c. Investments (Item 2)

Further advice had been sought from James Golob and the decision taken to invest the £15,000 in the CAF Defensive Portfolio.

d. Tombs and Memorials – Albums (Item 3)

This was now on the website. The next step was to provide the display boards for the church. This was in hand. The meeting asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded to Alan Creighton who had (and was continuing) to do so much excellent work on the St James's Monuments website.

e. Wildflower project (Item 3)

The work for this year had been completed with the planting of nearly 7000 bulbs around the churchyard and the sowing of meadow flowers and grasses in the area to the west of the church. The planting plan and further information was on the village website at:

<http://www.tormarton.org/LitChurchyardWildFlowers.php> The cost of the project had been met by a generous grant from the Tormarton Parish Council and a number of private donors. The meeting asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded to all those who had supported the project.

Item 5 - Benefice and Deanery Report

Sally Wheeler gave a review of Benefice and Deanery matters. The vacancy situation had improved with no vacancies in Chippenham but there was still a shortage in Corsham. There were also some concerns about the diminishing Christian ethos in schools and Diocesan resources were being diverted to address the problem.

Item 6 - Treasurer's report

Michael Horgan tabled the interim financial report which showed an increase of funds of £2560.62 (However, the year end projection showed that this would reduce to around £1000). The current unrestricted balance was £23,525.09 of which £15,000 was now invested with CAF. The Chairman thanked Michael Horgan for all his hard work as Treasurer.

Item 7 - Parish Share

Sally Wheeler introduced this item by explaining that there was a significant shortfall across the Diocese. A number of parishes had reduced their share in 2014. She hoped that we would be as generous as possible. The PCC had considered a submission from David Sandeman suggesting the income raised by those who go to church (collections, fees and regular giving) should be used to

fund our share whereas the funds raised by the community (events) should be used to fund running costs and maintenance. If the latter produced a surplus in a given year then consideration could be given to supplementing the share for that year. Michael Horgan produced figures to show that this was in effect what was happening. It was agreed that David Sandeman's proposal provided a useful method of assessing our share in any particular year.

In discussion, it was clear that several members felt uneasy about the way the Diocese was pleading its case for increased share giving. As in previous years this was too vague and unspecific to be of much use in persuading people (particularly non regular churchgoers) to support an increase in our share. Ness Whiffin agreed to report back to the Diocese. Nevertheless, it was agreed that we should perhaps be looking at new ways of raising funds to support the work of the Diocese which, of course, included funding our incumbent, curate and retired minister. It was agreed that we were fortunate in having such a strong team and that they deserved the full support of the community. David Sandeman had some ideas for additional fundraising and agreed to investigate further.

Action: Ness Whiffin and David Sandeman

For 2015, it was agreed that we should increase the share by 2% (new level £3213) and, given the healthy state of our funds, allocate an additional one off payment of £300.

Item 8 - Church fabric

David Adams reported that the work on re-plastering and painting the chancel arch was about to start and should be completed by the end of the month. Other work since the last meeting had included some repairs to the stonework including some re-pointing. The fabric was generally in good condition and all short and medium term items raised in the Quinquennial were either in hand or had been completed.

Item 9 - Services

The service pattern up to the end of the year had been published and was now on the village website. Sally Wheeler advised that there was also a christening to be held on 2 November.

The Christmas services were confirmed as follows:

Christingle/Gift Service 4pm on Sunday 14 December
(Gifts for the Rise Project)

Carol Service 6 pm on Sunday 21 December
(To be taken by Rev Ness Whiffin)

Christmas Day communion 10 am
(To be taken by Rev Christopher Mulholland)

It was agreed that we should consider a gathering for tea and cakes after the Christingle Service.

Item 10 - Events

a. Shoot

This had been held on 4 October.

b. Harvest Festival

This had been held on 28 September followed by a very successful Harvest Supper. Over £500 was raised for church funds.

c. Madrigals 2015 (Richard Meade would be looking at dates).

d. Gardens Open 2015 (13/14 June)

Item 11 - Any other business

There were two items of other business:

a. New PCC Member

James Golob had agreed to join the PCC. He was co-opted forthwith and would be elected formally at the annual meeting in April.

b. Letter to parishioners

David Adams suggested that given the number of new people in the village it might be timely to write a letter to the village giving details of the PCC, church funding, events and a brief explanation of how we operate. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. David Adams agreed to draft something which he would circulate to PCC members for comment.

Action: David Adams

Item 12 - Date of next meeting

This would be held after the APM and APCM which were scheduled for Monday, 13 April 2015 at 7.30 pm at Church Farm.

David Adams
Acting Chairman

To:

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

cc VillageWebsite
Church Folder