

WEST LITTLETON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015 AT 7.30 pm AT ST JAMES'S GRANGE, WEST LITTLETON

Present:

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

Item 1- Chairman's introductory remarks

The Chairman paid tribute to Richard Meade who died on 8th January. Richard and his family moved to West Littleton in 1979 and Richard faithfully served the parish for many years as a churchwarden and chairman of the PCC. Richard was a man with a deep and enduring faith. He would be sadly missed.

Item 2 - Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

Item 3 – Minutes of PCC meeting held on Monday 6 October 2014

The minutes were accepted without amendment.

Item 4 - Matters arising

a. Disposal of old harmonium (Item 4a)

Elizabeth Sandeman would liaise with Angela Meade over access to the harmonium which was stored at Church Farm. Once this was agreed the harmonium would be advertised on Freecycle.

Action: Elizabeth Sandeman

b. Display Boards (Item 4d)

Alan Young agreed to follow up the provision of boards with Nigel Ross who had offered to provide some samples. If Nigel Ross could not provide the boards then it was agreed that they should be purchased using funds from the Tombs and Monuments reserve. David Adams confirmed that Alan Creighton was standing by to do the design work once the format had been agreed.

Action: Alan Young

c. Parish Share (Item 7)

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting, David Sandeman outlined some thoughts for raising more money for the Parish Share and the principle that if more money was required to fund the ministry then this should come from the active church members. The Chairman said that there was in real terms a deficit of at least £20,000 in the amount that the Benefice gave to the Diocese compared with the cost of the ministry that the Benefice received. However, it was felt that, as before, without a clear indication from the Diocese as to the level of funding required it was difficult to persuade people (particularly the non regular churchgoers) to give more, as they already did a huge amount to support the church . If we were presented with a clear and substantiated figure for each parish then there would be a basis on which to proceed. A general plea to “give more” was not considered to be a sound approach. The Chairman accepted this and agreed to take the matter forward.

Action: Chairman

d. Letter to Parishioners (Item 11b)

David Adams had put this on hold following Richard Meade’s death but would now draft something for consideration.

Action: David Adams

Item 5 – Appointment of PCC members

This had been dealt with at the APCM under Item 5.

Item 6 – Benefice Report

This had been dealt with at the APCM under Items 4e and 6.

Item 7 - Treasurer’s report

Michael Horgan reported that as at the 31st March the unencumbered balance was £23,159.82 and that the projected cash flow to the 31st December 2015 showed a projected surplus of £4006.67.

Item 8 - Church fabric

This had been dealt with at the APCM under Item 4d.

It was agreed that the electrical inspection should be put in hand. It was noted that given the change of regulations since the last inspection it might be necessary to replace the circuit boards. David Adams suggested that it might be worth considering installing a spotlight in the rafters to illuminate the board high on the west wall which gave details of the restoration work following the fire in the 19th century. It was agreed that this should be investigated.

Action: David Adams

Item 9 – Wildflower Project

The second phase of planting was planned for later this week. This would be in the north east corner of the churchyard and would involve planting 200 plug plants and overseeding with a wildflower meadow mix. The cost had been met by a grant of £100 from the South Glos Biodiversity Action Group together with a small balance remaining in the original fund.

Item 10 – Parish Records

David Adams said that the parish records and papers required some attention as we had been without a PCC Secretary for several years. They were stored currently at Church Farm. He said that whilst he was happy to continue to prepare for meetings and produce the minutes it would be a great help if someone could undertake the sorting of the archives. There would almost certainly be some items of historical interest which should be sent to the county records office. Alan Creighton had agreed to make digital records of any papers or documents which we wished to retain.

The Chairman said that she had a booklet giving advice on the maintenance of parish records and guidance on which documents needed to be kept. James Golob kindly offered to review the contents of the boxes stored at Church Farm. Michael Horgan said he would be happy to help as he was keen to deal with the many financial records which were being held.

Action: The Chairman, James Golob and Michael Horgan

Item 11 – Services

The service pattern was working well and attendance was increasing. On Easter Day there were 48 in church including 12 children.

The dates for special services for the rest of the year were:

Sunday, 14 th June	Benefice Evensong at 6.15pm (Gardens Open)
Sunday, 27 th September	Harvest Festival at 6pm
Sunday, 13 th December	Christingle/Gift Service at 4pm
Sunday, 20 th December	Carol Service at 6pm

The Chairman would look into the possibility of inviting the Archdeacon to take a service sometime this year.

Item 12 - Events

- a. Shoot (usual date was end September/early October)
- b. Harvest Supper (27th September following the service)
- c. Madrigals 2016 (Christopher Bell offered to liaise with the Ensemble over dates)

Action: Christopher Bell

d. Gardens Open 2015 (13/14 June)

Item 13 - Any other business

a. Memorial for Richard Meade

James Golob agreed to discuss with Angela Meade. Possibilities were a plaque in the church or a bench in the churchyard.

Action: James Golob

b. Use of church as venue by Bristol University Singers

David Adams had been approached by Elinor Cooper, the leader of the Bristol University Madrigal Ensemble, about the use of the church as a concert venue. She planned to form a consort choir later in the summer and was very keen to return to West Littleton. Christopher Bell suggested that they might like to sing at our Evensong on 14th June. It was agreed that these were excellent ideas. David Adams would reply to Elinor Cooper and Christopher Bell kindly offered to take it forward.

Action: David Adams and Christopher Bell

Item 12 - Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 pm on 5th October at Harcombe Farm Barn.

Sally Wheeler
Chairman

To:

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

cc VillageWebsite
Church Folder