

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Paul's, New Beckenham, held in the Church hall on 10th July 2024.

2024 / 2025 No. 2

Present: Anne Harkness (in the chair), Sarah Butler, David Charlesworth, Wesley Guy (for minutes 1034(vi) – 11047), Clari Harrington, Sandra Horner, Anne Howick, Keith Howick, Anthea Prendergast.

Apologies for absence had been received from Maria Adu, Andrew Griffiths, Ian Johnson, Paul Lashmar, Nomsa Mafohla and Roger Wells.

David Charlesworth opened the meeting in prayer.

11030 Conflict of Interest

Keith Howick declared a Conflict of Interest as a trustee of St Paul's Pre-School, and of The Ugly Duckling Company.

1031 Appointment of leader for *Your PCC Matters*

Keith Howick offered to prepare a report on the meeting for the notice sheet.

1032 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 5th June 2024

Anthea Prendergast proposed, seconded Sarah Butler, that the minutes of the PCC meeting held on 5th June 2024 be received as an accurate record of the meeting. **Agreed.** Three members abstained as they had not been present at the meeting.

1033 Matters arising

(i) Minute 1003 (vii), School vouchers. Forty School vouchers had been purchased for Worsley Bridge School and would be given to the school on 15th July. Ten vouchers had been purchased for St Paul's Pre-School and would be given to the Pre-School on 12th July. Anthea Prendergast confirmed that she had paid in cash and cheque donations. It was agreed to continue to put a note in the notice sheet inviting the congregation to make donations.

(ii) Minute 1017(ii), Wood flooring. It was reported that work on the flooring would be starting on 15th July. As a result entrance to the church would be via the Chapel, and the foodbank tubs would be stored in the Chapel.

(iii) Minute 1018 (i), Visit by Ben Ray on 30th June. Clari Harrington reported that St Paul's had offered to pay Ben Ray for his travel expenses but Ben had said he did not need them to be paid.

1034 Action Sheet

(i) Minute 918(i), External lighting. CES would be coming to St Paul's on 16th July at 10.00 pm to give a demonstration. All members of the PCC and Gardening team would be welcome. The Diocese was aware of this meeting. A Faculty, and possibly Council planning approval, would be needed.

(ii) Minute 975, QI work. This work was underway.

(iii) Minute 990, New National Safeguarding Standards. Further guidance and support on how to implement these standards had not yet been received. A meeting of Parish Safeguarding Officers would be taking place shortly and Sandra Horner reported that she would be asking what extra support and guidance there will be.

(iv) Minute 992, Hire rates for concerts and other events. The Finance Team had not met.

(v) Minute 992, School voucher offer. Information had been in the notice sheet but not in the Giving leaflet.

(vi) Minute 992, Restricted funds. There are two or three projects which could be financed, e.g. new notice boards, AV work, organ work. Some of the restricted funds had been donated several years ago. Concern was expressed that some people might not consider giving to St Paul's in their will if it seemed as though the donations were not being used. Following discussion it was agreed that the Teams should be asked to consider how the restricted funds could be used. They would be asked to report to the Finance Team and the Finance team would be required to make a proposal to the PCC.

(vii) Cleaning products. Anne Harkness reported on the different costs if one purchased online rather than in the supermarket. The Climate & Ecology team were asked to speak to Ron and Pauline Barrett, Liz Spencer and Sandi Lee. It would be good to have a list of products that they use so that alternative products could be researched. It would be important to involve Ron and Pauline in the discussions.

(viii) Minute 995, Notice boards. David Charlesworth reported that Claire Williams was looking at design work.

(ix) Minute 1002, 3 Ashford House. Anthea Prendergast had not yet been able to speak to Robyn Ranu about the rental increase in August 2024. A copy of the recent lease was available in the church safe. Recently an alarm had been sounding persistently. The electrician had reported that all the alarms (heat, smoke and carbon monoxide) were out of date and everything needed changing. A new P1 certificate was needed at a cost of £450. Once it had been tested and verified the certificate would be valid for ten years. It would be important to put a reminder in the church calendar regarding regular testing. It was noted that plaster had fallen off the living room ceiling recently while it was drying out following a leak in the bathroom above, and concern was expressed regarding the things that needed repairing. Anne Harkness was asked to speak to Robyn Ranu regarding her work overseeing 3 Ashford House.

(x) Minute 1022, Garden of Remembrance information. Anne Howick would be giving Rev Rachel details once she was in post.

1035 Decisions made by the Standing Committee since the last PCC

Keith Howick reported that the Standing Committee had approved a two year gas contract with Crown 100% Green tariffs. The unit cost for gas and daily charge had gone up by about 50%. The electricity contract had been renewed with Smartist Energy. The contracts were being prepared for signature by Anthea Prendergast.

1036 Preparations for installation of Rev Rachel Winn on 11th July

Members were thanked for all they had done in preparing for the service. The Diocese would be providing Gift Aid envelopes before the service. There would be a collection during the last hymn and four members would be taking round bowls for cash or Gift Aid envelopes. Many members of the congregation had also been working behind the scenes to get things ready. Members of the PCC would be on waiter duty taking round the refreshments. There would be tables at the back of church where drinks would be served.

1037 Service rota updates and support for Church Administrator

The Church administrator had had a meeting with Rev Rachel on 9th July and would be meeting her again on 11th July.

1038 Safeguarding and Inclusion

It was proposed that there should be a scenario exercise at a PCC meeting in the autumn. Sandra Horner was asked to remind some members of the link to the safeguarding modules.

1039 PCC team appointments

A report had been circulated to the PCC on 9th July. The PCC Secretary updated members on the latest indications of interest. PCC members were encouraged to speak to members of the congregation to see if they would like to join a team. Following discussion the following teams were agreed in principle.

Buildings Team: Anne Harkness, Richard Bradley, Walter Lombard, Paul Lashmar (from September), Adam Winn.

Children and Youth: Sandra Horner, Nomsa Mafohla

Climate and Ecology: Sarah Butler, Wesley Guy, Keith Howick, Anthea Prendergast,

Communications: Maria Adu, David Charlesworth, Andrew Griffiths, Anne Harkness, Anne Howick.

Finance: David Charlesworth, Keith Howick, Anthea Prendergast.

Mission Partners: Sarah Butler, Clari Harrington, Ian Johnson, Roger Wells.

1040 Financial matters

It was noted that the Finance Team was hoping to meet before the end of July.

1041 Climate and Ecology Team

A report had been received from the Team regarding a booklet which had been published entitled “Jesus died to save the planet” written by Paul Kunert. The booklet was mainly aimed at church leaders. Sarah Butler proposed, seconded Keith Howick, that printed copies should be purchased for Rev Rachel and the PCC, and that the congregation should be given the opportunity to buy copies, at a suggested donation of £2. Fifty copies would be purchased. **Agreed.** Some copies would be put in the church library. The Team would also be planning to organise a discussion evening in the autumn with Paul Kunert, open to all.

1042 Buildings Team

The team had not been able to meet. Keith Howick reported that, because of the increase in the cost of energy there are some things which need to be done. The thermostats for the halls would need replacing with better controllers which can be programmed or switched off more easily. It would also be necessary to review the heating arrangements in the tower.

A part B Faculty application had been submitted with regard to the cutting back of the yew trees. A window had been broken in the disabled toilet and the Buildings team would be getting quotes for repair work. It would be necessary to check with the Diocese if a Faculty would be needed for the new noticeboards.

A lighting demonstration at the entrance to the church had been arranged with CES on Tuesday 16th July at 10.00 pm.

1043 IT and related issues

David Charlesworth reported that the internet and wi-fi system was not working properly in the halls and church. Currently online giving was not possible as the Sum Up account was not properly accessible. Andrew Griffiths was working to change email accounts provider from Google Workspace and to using Gmail/GDrive or MS Outlook/One Drive. Hopefully this would be up and running in the next few weeks. It was suggested that a budget of £500 should be agreed initially. Following discussion David Charlesworth proposed, seconded Keith Howick, that a team of Maria Adu, David Charlesworth, Anne Harkness, John Dore and Andrew Griffiths take responsibility for the project and get quotes, and expenditure be reviewed by the Standing Committee. **Agreed.**

1044 Deanery Synod

Keith Howick and Sandra Horner had attended a meeting on 9th July at Christ Church Anerley. Rev Richard Jones had led worship and given a helpful reflection. It was noted that the new MP for Beckenham & Penge, Liam Conlon, is a Christian. He was keen to meet local people, including the youth of the Deanery.

There had been discussions about safeguarding issues, for example when churches have visiting preachers. The Area Dean stated that visiting preachers, not from a C of E parish, would need to have a DBS check in the Parish they were visiting. This has significant implications for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and for speakers from our mission organisations. There were expressions of incredulity about this position. Sandra Horner reported that she would be having a PSO Zoom meeting on Saturday and would raise the subject then.

There would be a Lent course at St John's in 2025.

1045 Electoral Roll

The PCC welcomed Steve Brathwaite and Alicia McLean on to the Electoral Roll.

1046 It was noted that the Next PCC meeting would be taking place on 11th September 2024.

11047 Items for *Your PCC matters*

Members agreed that the following items should be included:

New gas and electricity contracts for 24 months had been negotiated via the broker.

Thanks were expressed to everyone who had worked hard to prepare for Rev Rachel's installation service and the refreshments afterwards.

The PCC had received an update on a project to review and improve all the IT, broadband, AV, online giving tools, and AV and streaming.

PCC members had been elected to serve on Teams.

CES had been booked to come and give a lighting demonstration at the entrance to the church.

There being no further business Anne Harkness closed the meeting in prayer at 8.45 pm.