

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Paul's, New Beckenham, held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**2022 / 2023 No. 3**

**Present:** Rev Simon Couper (in the chair), Richard Bradley, Sarah Butler, Tarina Hill, Anne Howick, Keith Howick, Anthea Prendergast.

Apologies for absence had been received from Adelaide Adade, Andrew Griffiths, Hazel Koungoue, Ian Johnson, Paul Lashmar, and Nomsa Mafohla.

Richard Bradley opened the meeting in prayer.

**10677 Conflict of Interest**

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

**678 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The minutes of the meeting had been received. With regard to minute 670, PCC Teams, Anthea Prendergast reported that she was not part of the Communications Team but was part of the Finance Team. Keith Howick proposed, seconded Rev Simon Couper, that, subject to the correction in minute 670, the minutes of the PCC meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be received as an accurate record of the meeting. **Agreed.**

**679 Matters arising**

(i) Minute 669 (iii) Gardening Team. The vicar confirmed that the Gardening Team had been informed of the PCC's decision and were very grateful for its approval. Keith Howick commented that there was £774 in a restricted fund for use by the Gardening Team. Sarah Butler did not think the Gardening Team was aware of this restricted fund. It was felt that the Gardening Team should be allocated a budget, but the PCC would require members of the Gardening Team to give an indication of a reasonable sum. The vicar agreed to discuss this with the Gardening group, and to make them aware of the restricted funds.

**680 Energy audit**

The Climate and Ecology Team reported that SELCE had quoted £750 to do an energy audit. The audit would establish things like the carbon footprint, and use of energy, and review how the building is used, and comment on how we can be more effective. Following discussion it was agreed that further information should be circulated by the PCC Secretary to the Standing Committee for approval. Keith Howick proposed, seconded Rev Simon Couper, that the PCC agree to delegate the decision on this item to the Standing Committee, with a budget of £1,000 to include vat if necessary. **Agreed.**

**681 Action Sheet**

(i) Purchase of A3 colour printer - approved and purchased and installed in the vestry.

(ii) Complaints Policy and Procedure - the vicar to check.

(iii) Ukraine Support Group - Attendance had been very quiet on recent Fridays and it was agreed to pause the Friday afternoon meetings for the time being. Families in the area were looking to enter into the work place. The vicar would be meeting with Jill Brook and other volunteers to discuss how to help in a better way. The vicar recorded his sincere thanks to Jill and all who had helped at this time. It was noted that Holy Trinity has launched a cost of living crisis appeal.

(iv) Safeguarding courses - Anne Howick was asked to send a reminder to the PCC with the relevant links.

(v) Donation plate - Anthea Prendergast had spoken to Hazel Koungoue. Richard Bradley suggested it would be helpful to hand out hymn books as people arrived, in case there was a problem with the screening technology.

(vi) Declaration of Crisis - some copies of the policy had been given out on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

(vii) Parish Giving Scheme - Keith Howick to get information.

## **682** Safeguarding and Inclusion

The vicar reported that clergy DBS checks are done centrally by the Diocese and he had completed his training.

The vicar reported confidentially on someone who had been visiting St Paul's during Sunday services and when the church is open. He encouraged everyone to marshall vulnerable people well and gave guidance on how he deals with the current situation.

## **683** Financial matters

(i) Restricted Funds. A report had been received from Rosemary Dear giving details of funds which are available and suggestions as to which group should be responsible for the funds. Members asked various questions regarding the use of particular funds by a group. As Bidy Gillman would be moving away shortly it was suggested that Hazel Koungoue should be responsible for the Women's World Day of Prayer funds. 10% of funds received from legacies goes to away giving. The vicar proposed that the report should be circulated where there is an obvious team to remind them that there is money which has been allocated. He would circulate the report as appropriate.

(ii) 2022 budget. A report had been prepared by Rosemary Dear and Keith Howick giving details of the Income and Expenditure for 2021 and the budget for 2022. The Finance Team was asked to consider whether the rental for 3 Ashford House and the garage should be increased as it had been the same for at least three or four years. There would be a stewardship day in October and November. The vicar thanked Rosemary Dear, Anthea Prendergast and the members of the Finance Team for managing the cash flow.

## **684** St Paul's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A report giving details of the budget and actual or committed expenditure as at 15<sup>th</sup> May had been tabled. The vicar updated members on some of the budget figures.

(i) Gospel event. The budget for this event was £5,000. There was a discussion regarding the amount to be charged for tickets, and whether there should be a concession price and children's price. The vicar hoped St Paul's would start selling tickets later in July. There was a discussion regarding whether to use Eventbrite or Ticketsource. Drinks would be served at the interval but we would not be using caterers. It would be important to check with Eventbrite to see if it is possible to make a donation when purchasing tickets. Members agreed that tickets should cost £15 for adults and £10 for children.

(ii) Gardening team. The vicar had had a meeting with Ann Vice, Moreen Lane and Liz Spencer regarding work in the church garden involving St Paul's Pre-School.

**685** PCC Teams

(i) Communications Team. The vicar had spoken to his sister and a new website is nearly ready to launch. David Charlesworth had indicated that he does not wish to continue as the webmaster. Andrew Griffiths had said he would be happy to take on this work.

(ii) Climate & Ecology Team. A reasonable number of people had attended the Open Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> July and there would be another session on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**686** Deanery Synod

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July had been held at St Paul's. Jennifer Ross, the Communications manager at the Diocese, had given a presentation. The vicar commented that she can advise on all sorts of things. There had been more interaction with the local MPs regarding the cost of living crisis. The vicar reported on the changes to service times at St John's Penge, now that Rev Jessica Smith is vicar of St John's Penge and Holy Trinity, Lennard Road. Currently St Mary's Shortland's and Christ Church Anerley are in interregnum.

**687** It was noted that the next PCC meeting would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**688** Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Liz Spencer had advised the PCC that she would offering to organise a Tearfund Big Quiz night at St Paul's on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The vicar proposed, seconded Keith Howick that a Tearfund Big Quiz night fundraiser event should be held at St Paul's on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022. **Agreed.**

**10689** Top of the Pew Quiz

The next round would be taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Paul's.

There being no further business the vicar closed the meeting in prayer at 9.05 pm.