

Minutes of the Business meeting of Ash Parochial Church Council

Date: Tuesday 23rd March 2010

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Ash Rectory

Present: The Rev John Peal, Colin Irving, Jacky Richardson (Churchwardens) Cameron Clark (Secretary), Jacquie Peal, James Hughesdon, Julia Kilfoyle, Bryan Parlett.

John Harding sent apologies for his late arrival

The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.05pm

1. Apologies for absence:

1.1 Gillian Noakes, Joe O'Neill-Byrne, Joan Littlejohn, Mike Rose

2. The approval of the agenda

2.1 The draft agenda was approved.

3. Approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting of 9th February

3.1 The minutes of the meeting on 9th February were agreed and signed

Matters Arising

3.2 There has been no response to our request for advice concerning the green Triangle.

3.3 BryanParlett will print the prayer leaflets – delivery will start after Easter when volunteers will be needed to ensure delivery. **B.P. + others**

3.4 We still need to sort our priorities for PCC meetings to allow more time for prayer and reflection.

4. To receive the reports of the Parish Affairs Committee of 2nd January

4.1 The report was received

4.2 Jacky Richardson asked members to note a correction in that line 4/5 of the

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'Church Room' paragraph should read 'Fred Briars would be asked to act as CDM co-ordinator.

5. To receive the report of the Standing committee of 19th January.

The report was received.

Matters Arising

5.1.1 The Rector pointed out that the OMAI document showed our parish to be over represented in the 45 - 63 age group. This will mean an increased over representation of older people in the next few years.

5.1.2 The appointment of a new Bishop is likely to be at the beginning of next year although no date has been set.

5.2.2 The final line of this paragraph should read 'Jacky agreed to write to Thomas Ford and Partners'. **J.R.**

5.2.3 Colin reported that the insurance company are happy as long as the lightening conductor is proved to be working. Our conductor has been tested and is working although not enough to meet British Standards. It would cost £495+VAT to improve it and £3-4000 to meet British Standards. It was agreed to take no further action at present.

5.2.4 We can buy our own fire extinguishers and these will be serviced under our contract with CPS. **C.I.**

5.2.6 The bell ringers' service following the re-hanging of the bells will be 23/05/10.

5.4 Information concerning 'Back to Church Sunday is still awaited. **The Rector**

6. APCM

6.1 PCC Report. Cameron had produced a PCC report, which was agreed following the filling in of a few 'gaps' and the electoral roll numbers.

6.2 Elections. John Harding and Mike Rose are due to retire; Gillian Noakes had indicated that she wished to resign. We need to elect 3 PCC members – 2 for 3 years and 1 as Deanery Synod representative for 1 year. Also 1 Church warden for 5 years as JR has completed her term in office. **C.C.**

6.3 Practical Arrangements. Jacky R agreed to speak to the Social Committee about provision of refreshments. **J.R.**

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7. PCC Church Weekend 2010 – see attached notes of the subcommittee meeting 16/03/10

Jacquie Peal reported that the sub-committee had met Jean Kerr and been encouraged by her enthusiasm. Jean will rewrite the proposed timetable and the production of the brochure is 'on hold' until we hear from her.

Jacquie is looking at dates for some 'quiet days' for the PCC, Healing Team and PWE planning at West Malling.

(Note: It was subsequently discovered that W.Malling is no longer available for Sundays)

A prayer bookmark has been designed and will be ready for Easter at a cost of £140. Brian was asked to add the prayer to the pew sheets from Easter onwards. **B.P.**

9. Churchwardens Report (item 8 was deferred, pending the arrival of JH)

9.1 It was noted that it had been agreed by e mail that the Standing Committee could make the decision to employ Thomas Ford and Partners for the next stage of the project. TF had been informed of the decision by JR who was awaiting further communications from them.

9.2 We are still awaiting the final repair and painting of the chancel ceiling.

10. Young People.

10.1 Girls' and Boys' Brigades. No change. There are now 6 young leaders and one had recently attended a young leaders course.

10.2 YACA is going well – 9 young people had attended in March. There is an increase in very young children and their parents so there will soon be a need for a parent/toddler group.

10.3 The Rector reported that he has 9 Baptisms booked, but only 1 at a 10.30 service.

11. Deanery and Diocesan Synod.

Cameron reported that we need to provide a response to Jean Kerr as a result of the OMAI, i.e. 3 things that surprised us and 3 challenges.

(Note: these were discussed at the meeting of 9th February and are recorded in the minutes)

The treasurer arrived

8. Receive the Treasurer's Report.

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- 8.1 The reports of the 2009 accounts and proposed 2010 budgets were received
- 8.2 Matters arising.
- 8.2.1 The accounts had been approved by the examiner.
- 8.2.2 A major deficit in last year's accounts was due to the late arrival of our tax repayments.
- 8.2.3 Recently there has been a drop in giving and a rise in expenses.
It is likely that things will get worse:
We have an ageing population
The £1000 we currently receive from the Diocese for the Glebe land will cease when the Rector retire.
Pension contributions are likely to increase.
We have agreed our Parish share for the next 2 years but it is likely to increase after that.
- 8.2.4 The Rector pointed out :
That the Diocese would only appoint a new incumbent if the parish is financially viable.
That the new Bishop may change the ways the Diocese is run – for example future incumbents may be paid by the Diocese out of an increased parish share.
There may be more combining of parishes or other ways of financing incumbents e.g. 'House for duty'. It is likely that more of the parish work will fall to volunteers in the future.
- 8.2.5 Further discussion concerned:
How can we increase our income and how much are we likely to raise?
Should we be looking to train lay people to take on some of the work Rector's current work?
It was agreed that the finance committee should meet on 14/04/10 to develop a strategy. *(This subsequently proved to comprise Colin Irving, John Harding and Bryan Parlett)*
- 8.2.6 Adopt 2009 accounts.
It was agreed (proposed Cameron Clark and seconded Jacquie peal) that we should approve the 2009 accounts.
- 8.2.7 The Rector proposed that we should adopt the 2010 budget as set by the treasurer. This was agreed.

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12. AOB

- 12.1 As from 31/03/11 custodians of listed buildings will no longer be able to reclaim VAT on repairs. We are all asked to write to our M.P. about this.
- 12.2 The Rector has agreed that Mr Munday should commence cutting the churchyard grass.
- 12.3 It was noted that 2 stolen cars were abandoned and wrecked in the car park and adjoining field in the previous week.
- 12.4 Bryan Parlett reported that the logo should be ready in about 2 weeks time.

The meeting closed with the grace at 10.25 pm

13. Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday 13 April	8.00pm	Standing Committee	Ash Rectory
Tuesday 20 April	8.00pm	Parish Meeting and APCM	Ash Village Hall
Tuesday 20 April		Short PCC Meeting	Ash Village Hall
Tuesday 27 April	8.00pm	Parish Affairs Committee	TBA
Tuesday 11 May	8.00pm	Standing Committee	Ash Rectory
Tuesday 18 May	8.00pm	PCC Business Meeting	Ash Rectory

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Date.....