

WONERSH + BLACKHEATH

PARISH CHURCHES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IN THE SELWYN ROOM ON THE 18th NOVEMBER 2024

In Attendance

Rev David Peters (DP) Chair

Clive Couzens (CC) Secretary

Martin Keech (MK)

Darren Alford (DA)

Clare Hepworth (CHe)

Alex Vinall (AV)

Charlie Wakefield (CW)

Patricia Allen (PA)

Anne Heine-Carmichael (AHC)

Steve Vinall (SV)

Nicholas Bamber (NB)

Nick Gray (NG)

Carmina Harlow (CHa)

1. Introduction and prayer

DP introduced the meeting with a reflection from Psalm 82 and a prayer, noting the relevance of the passage to Safeguarding Sunday and the recent controversies surrounding the Church of England.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Jonty Shepard, Mark Puttick, Rosie Twist, Alice Bounsall-Hughes and Liz Lister.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th September had been previously circulated and were agreed as a true record.

4. Conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest to note.

5. Matters arising and action points

Any matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant agenda item.

6. Safeguarding

In the light of recent news concerning the Church of England DP had reviewed past incidents with Marion. There had been some historical incidents (many years ago) which had been properly reported, and reported again during the most recent review by the Church. In one case there was little to be done as the church was not even aware of the identity of the victim.

DP reminded members of the principles of safeguarding practice: Recognise, Respond, Record, Refer.

In the light of recent events it was recommended that members of the DCC at St Martin's should be required to carry out the safeguarding training required of PCC members. DP would follow this through. **(Action DP)**.

There were no incidents to report.

7. Health and Safety

SV was progressing with work on the fire report.

It was agreed that the church should look further into the installation of a defibrillator. DP would investigate the relative costs of rental and purchase, and consult with the Standing Committee. **(Action DP)**

There were no incidents to report.

8. Finance

CW and NG reported verbally as follows.

A claim for recovery of Gift Aid had been made covering the period to the end of June.

As an alternative to a credit card in DP's name a pre-paid card issued by Pleo would be investigated, and if suitable approved by the Finance Committee.

The old web hosting contract had been cancelled.

Two legacies of £5,000 each had been/would be received. One was restricted, for the upkeep of the church bells.

Accounting treatment of wedding and funeral fees and expenses – carry forward.

A recovery of VAT for certain capital expenditure had been made.

The contract for Springfield had been completed. The change of use would result in a drop in the church's assets, as the new (original) use was valued at cost rather than market price.

The Charity Commission update was being carried out. The CC8 checklist had been discussed at a recent Finance Committee meeting.

Mission partner payments were yet to be made, and a couple of invoices were still to be added to the system. The PRS music license was being reviewed.

The vast majority of outstanding questions from the independent examiner had been addressed.

The church's finances were in a healthy state, with no unexpected expenditure incurred. CC requested that summary accounts could be supplied more frequently at PCC meetings. (Post meeting note: NG circulated a spreadsheet showing the financial situation as at 30/6/24).

9. Ordained Assistant

One person had submitted an application for the post, and had been recommended to the Diocese, who would shortly be conducting a further interview.

10. Buildings

MK had circulated a report which was noted.

The application for installation of PV panels had been withdrawn following a strong objection from Historic England. A further letter would be drafted to correct their misunderstandings.

No quotes had yet been received for construction of buttresses for the churchyard wall.

Various possibilities were discussed for the putative church extension, with a favoured option (as discussed at an earlier meeting with the architect) being progressed. A statement of needs would be required. **(Action SV)**.

An offer of £400 for the pews and prayer desk had been received and accepted.

Some retaining sleepers in the garden at Springfield were deteriorating. A quote of £3,300 from a church member to carry out remedial work had been obtained, and MK sought the PCC's approval to accept the quote; this was agreed.

11. Children and Families

Nothing to report, but it was noted that attendance on Sundays was growing.

12. Any Other Business

Some members had attended a further meeting to discuss the Parish Needs Process. It had been an inspiring morning.

DP presented the annual report of the WSG School and School Meadow Charities.

The church had been requested to adopt the Diocesan Dignity at Work policy, which CC had circulated. This was agreed.

Signed: