

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon Parochial Church Council
Minutes of Meeting – Thursday 21st January 2021

Present : TR RN EJ DH
JG TS IS DC
EC ML GC JF

Meeting Chair: TR **Minutes:** JRd

Meeting started : 19:35 **Meeting concluded :** 21:12

1. Reflection and Prayer

TR shared a short reflection based on Revelation 21 and began the meeting in prayer.

2. Story Sharing

ML, TS & TR shared stories of how they were.

3. Apologies

EJ's attendance was affected due to an unstable Internet connection beyond his control!

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2020

The minutes were signed by TR as an accurate record.

Proposed - RN, Seconded - JG Passed unanimously.

5. 5th November 2020 Minutes Action Points Table Update

Matters arising from 5th November Minutes (not covered in agenda/table)

Action point table updated. No matters arising

6. Finance Focus:

a) 2020 Provisional Accounts

- RN circulated his financial report and budget forecast prior to the meeting.
- The statutory accounts show a deficit of £19810 in unrestricted funds for year. This correlates to our internal reports showing Church general fund surplus of £5250, designated fund deficit of £9054 and, as agreed, write off of remaining asset values of £16008.
- £10,864 was raised from the Gift Day.
- RN described areas of income and expenditure in year for both designated and restricted funds.
- Considering the problems of this year, the accounts are pretty satisfying.
- Cancelling out the depreciation of assets will relieve this burden from future years.
- We give thanks to God for our reserves.

b) 2021 Budget

- The best guess is that things will return to a limited normal from September onwards.
- Main things are that there are reduced cash collections each week from the last version of budget, to account for the ongoing situation.
- More income from hall lettings is included as certain support groups are allowed to continue meeting under current Covid restrictions.
- More money has been released into the Mission Budget. There is £1k less in planned giving.
- Some costs have been taken out of the normal service costs as we won't be marketing/running Easter, Pentecost in the normal way.
- The staff are still furloughed part time from January to April but paid in full.
- RN suggest that we should adopt this budget for the year.
- TS offered his support and commented that we are in a stronger position than anticipated.
- TR commented that 2022 may be a harder year as we will not benefit from furlough.
- GC thanked RN for finding more money for the Mission Team.

It was proposed that we accept this budget.

Proposed - DH, Seconded - GC Passed unanimously.

TR thanked RN on behalf of the PCC for all his hard work with the continuing, changing circumstances. RN thanked God for His provision.

7. Prayers of Thanks!

GC, TS and TR offered prayers of thanks for God's provision.

8. Ministry Focus

a) Christmas Carol Services & Events Review

Physical attendance numbers at services were lower this year due to Covid19 restrictions. There were lots of views of services on social media, which is encouraging. God has used this ministry to reach people. The God of Hope message was the right message at the right time. 62 Christingle kits were also distributed to people in the area.

TS commented that we should be encouraged that we were relevant and people wanted to engage, making the decision to move quickly to live-streaming has borne fruit. TS thanked TR for his leadership on this. GC noticed that there were a few families who came along to services who weren't regular attenders. TR commented that some families who would usually come at Christmas and Easter also contacted him and watched services online. JF also noted that there were some families who we had not seen before. We should be encouraged!

b) 2021 and the year ahead including Streaming update

TR shared that we need to keep going as we are with the regular pastoral care of people etc. We can use this time to review our ministry as we look ahead and re-evaluate what we are called to do in our community when we come out of the pandemic. Gathered can mean both in-person and virtually. This year is therefore a chance to start reviewing ministries. TR believes that streaming is here to stay. There is an application for funding to help with the cost of things needed for streaming.

c) Suspension of Services during Lockdown

This is a local not a national decision. DH explained that the decision had been taken with the safety of the people coming into the services as well as the safety of the people taking part in the services. DH asked the PCC to confirm the decision that services should be live-streamed only from church or home if required.

The following is proposed:

'To comply with the church of England's directives regarding the closure of churches for public worship, this proposal is brought before the PCC for confirmation of the decision made by the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary's Eaton Socon.

The Churchwardens and Vicar of St Mary's Eaton Socon propose that the provision of services open to the public be replaced by an online only service from the church building with effect from Tuesday 5 January 2021. This will be reviewed regularly and services will be reinstated when the current lockdown measures ease.'

Proposed - DH, Seconded – RN. Passed unanimously.

JG asked whether it will be reviewed by the PCC or the Standing Committee. TR answered that it would depend on which meeting was closer to the time the review needed to happen.

d) Church Bible Replacement Project

At the beginning of December there was a discount on the Bibles that we were planning to buy. The discount meant that the church would save over £1000. The Standing Committee took the decision to buy them and stepped out in faith that the funds would come in, which they are doing. The congregation will be asked to continue sponsoring the Bibles.

e) APCM – 7th March 2021

Formal permission to do the APCM remotely has come through from the diocese. Nearer the time it will be decided as to whether it is entirely online or a hybrid version of the meeting with some people in church and some online.

9. Updates/Matters for PCC

a) Buildings & Fabric Priorities for 2021

DH shared that the surveillance cameras for the shed are in the process of being set-up.

DH and EJ have set up a form that small jobs can be put on. This will mean that the maintenance team can do some jobs on their own/in a covid-safe way.

c) Safeguarding

JG - There was not much to report. Two DBS forms have come through and JG needs to follow up on training needs.

b) Creation Care: Solar Panels (*Anthony Harris and Roger Peppiatt joined the meeting at this point.*)

- Prior to the meeting the Creation Cafe Group had circulated a Solar Panel proposal. The Creation Care Group asked some of its members to look at the feasibility of installing solar panels on the church roof, and now asks the PCC to approve the next stage of enquiries.
- AH stated that it is technically possible to install solar panels, but that some issues may arise, for example the copper roof of the church may not be nailed down and so may need to weigh it down.
- The investment costs would be in the region of £16k-£22k with a payback period of 20-25 years, which is within the guarantee period. However, the real saving is in the CO₂ emission, which would be halved.
- AH and RP explained that there are two things which the Creation Care Group are asking for at this stage. Firstly, to approach the DAC semi-formally about the proposal and secondly to explore the possibility of grants for Green Projects. TR suggested that we widen the brief of the Creation Care Group and asked them to look at how the church could move in the direction of achieving net-zero.
- TS commented that the proposal document was excellent and also thought that we should look at it through a wide lens to maximise our efforts to reduce our impact on the environment.
- TS also asked about costs - it will cost £96 to formally apply for planning permission. TS also asked whether applying energy inflation to the costings would help in relation to the payback costs.
- ML expressed an interest as she lives near the church. She commented that no netting has been included in the price and this would mean that pigeons would nest under the solar panels and their corrosive droppings would affect the brickwork. RP agreed that netting is a good idea, as did TR.
- ML also commented that the proposal says the panels will hardly be visible, she wondered what that this actually meant in reality. AH explained that the panels will be parallel to the roof. TR commented that as the proposal goes forward, an artist's impression can be done for people to view.
- ML asked whether clamps for the solar panels would intrude into the copper roof. AH thinks that the roof would be able to sustain the clamps. JG suggested talking to Brian Elliott about the roof, which was redone in the 1990s.
- TS thought it was a good conversation to have about the principles of doing solar panels and that going forward the costs can be redone in a more formal way. AH pointed out that it will cost to have a structural survey done.
- ML also suggested that there is a local consultation with people who live around the church before we formally proceed.
- TR is hoping that there will be trusts/funding available that will support the scheme. He asked if the Creation Care Group would be happy to research things further, which AH and RP said they would be.

TR thanked the Creation Care Group on behalf of the PCC.

10. Correspondence

TR said he was attending a CPAS webinar about Leading after the Pandemic

11. Prayer and Reflection for Feb 26th PCC Meeting

EJ was volunteered to lead this!

12. Dates of future meetings

2021:
Feb 25th;
APCM on Sunday March 7th
March 25th; *March 27th ½ day for policies etc
April 22nd; May 20th; June 17th; July 15th;
Sept 16th
Sept 30th Budget Meeting
Nov 18th; *Dec 2nd

*To be confirmed

13. Final Prayer

The meeting closed with The Grace at 21:12.

PCC Meeting Action Log as of Thursday 21st January 2021

#	Month / Item	Action	Owner	Due / Status
1	Sept / 7b	Children & Communion – arrange next PCC discussion Update 28/11 – awaiting date (carry forward)	TR	Spring 2022
7	Sept / 11c	'Growing Younger' – Meeting with SMES's PCC to be arranged Update 26/2 - meeting on 30/4/20 at 7:30pm. This meeting will be opened up to others. TR to invite.	TR	Spring 2022
12	Oct / 9b	Identify and approach possible volunteers for Light Factory Update 28/11 – four volunteers Darren Smith and (once a term) Barbra Jarvis, Nanette Hesketh, Tim Robb. Carry forward to identify further volunteers	ALL	Autumn 2021
14	Oct / 11b	Ongoing actions relating to lighting systems and kitchen Update 26/2 – LED lighting fitted on the screen at the back of church	DH	Summer 2021
27	Nov / 11f	Update risk assessment with addition activities identified and ensure consistency of risk assessment for each area Update 26/2 - Ongoing - there has been some progress	EJ + Others	Summer 2021
33	Jan / 9b	SEND Project ML offered to help Liz Faulkner with funding applications Update 26/3 - ML has spoken to Liz. Liz will contact ML Update 21/1/21 – with Liz on Adoption Leave until late Autumn 2021, this is delayed to Spring 2022.	ML	Spring 2022
42	Feb / 7c	Church Bibles Church Family to be asked to sponsor a new Bible for St Mary's Update 21/1/21 - Due to a significant discount on the Bibles, the Church Bibles have been purchased in faith and the congregation have been asked for donations.	TR	Spring 2021
44	Feb / 9a	Safeguarding Update 21/1/21 Risk Assessments for Young People activities to be presented at 2022 PCC Away Day	JG	Spring 2022
50	April / 10b May / 8b	Future Developments EJ - DAC need a business case justifying expansion of the church hall. EJ to bring back updated Development documents with figures for architectural drawings	EJ	Summer 2021
55	June / 8b	Church Streaming Options Update 5/11 – An application to a Trust for funding of cameras has been made. Awaiting response.	TR	Spring 2021
56	Jan / 8c	Suspension of Attended Services Attendance Services have been suspended for now. Services will be reinstated when circumstances allow.	Standing Committee / PCC	Spring 2021
57	Jan / 9b	Creation Care Group Exploring Solar Panels and 'Green initiatives' to help the church moved towards net-Zero	Creation Care Group	Summer 2021

Note: There are no actions above this month to remove from next month's PCC recorded action log.