

CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND
Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th January 2010

PRESENT Martin Brown: Myra Brown: Stuart Bunting:
Ray Hackney: Richard Harris: Mike Parsons:
Pauline Pearce: Rev. Jonathon Vickery (Chair):

APOLOGIES Joyce Bevan: Paul Churchill: Geoff Greet:
Paul Hacker: Rachael Hill: Helen Johnson:
Adrian Lewis: Andy McNeill: Bill Robbins:

As Kate Williams was unable to attend the meeting, Pauline Pearce agreed to take the minutes.

OPENING WORSHIP:

JV led the meeting into meditation and prayer based on John 4 v 35 "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest".

MINUTES of the meeting held on 23rd November 2009 were approved with no amendments.

MATTERS ARISING

(i) Environment Update:

JV had approached Dave & Kizzy Harris to consider joining the Environment Group; however as they are committed at present to working on the organisation of Mill House Retreats they felt they could not accept. It is understood that Geoff Payne wishes to step back a little, whilst remaining part of the group. RH agreed to consider who might be approached to join the group and report back to PCC.

ACTION RH

(ii) Building Project Report

BR had sent a report update which was presented to the meeting.

An invitation pack has been sent to ten architects selected from recommendations from other churches and websites to find local practices, to send expressions of interest in working for and with us to achieve our “two tiered” vision. Following the return date of 25th January 2010 the Steering Group will meet on 4th February to review these and make recommendations to PCC on 25th February.

JV suggested PCC members look at the website of St. Peter’s, Harrow. He had spoken to the architect who had undertaken the work at this church and felt it was important that the architect eventually chosen is one who is approachable and easily contactable.

Works will be carried out on NSH between 15th – 19th February and all hirers had been notified. Kitchen units etc. will be delivered on Friday 15th January and will be stored on the stage until needed. A working group has been formed to clear the kitchen the week before and “rationalise” the crockery and equipment. It has been decided that it is not cost effective to replace the cooker and instead replacement chairs, trolleys and table trolleys are being considered within the overall budget.

RAH felt that caution will need to be exercised on expenditure for NSH as that fund now stands at £5,090.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PRIORITIES FOR 2010

The meeting was asked to prayerfully consider their top three priorities for 2010. Each person then presented their priorities as follows:-

Youth Ministry (4 people) – Youth Minister in situ by the end of 2010 and subsequent growth in youth membership and support for leaders.

Closer links with the community – raising awareness of what we are about and the work we do at CC. Developing a culture of invitation both within CC and outside – whole church events. Expand the use of Haven House. Reach out to Emersons Green.

Ensure Paul Peterson and family are settled & integrated.

Appoint another debt counsellor for CAP. Build a stronger relationship with churches in the Deanery and build a larger team of support workers for CAP clients both from CC and beyond.

Seek God's will for our church development. Discerning God's will through every process.

Seek God's will for our personal spiritual development. See more people responding to the opportunity for prayer. More people joining the Prayer Team. An increase in giving to the General Fund. Develop and strengthen home groups (possibly another 100 people in home groups plus 10 new leaders).

2. TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET FOR 2010

RAH was still working on the December accounts so did not present a report.

MB presented the summary of general expenditure for 2009 and the proposed budget for 2010. The new accounting system will be clearer and enable us to monitor expenditure against budget during the year.

The two largest amounts of expenditure are for the Parish Share and Salaries/National Insurance. The major increase in Parish Share is voluntary and was agreed at the last PCC. However we have complete flexibility over this payment. MB explained that the Youth Worker salary is not included in the budget as Christ Church Ecclesiastical Charity will pay the salary for the first 12 months.

The proposed budget exceeds income for 2009 by approx £35,000 and it was important that this information be conveyed to the congregation as soon as possible so folk may consider their giving in an informed way. RH felt that in the current very difficult financial climate, presentation should be done in a caring way. JV said presentation will be linked to Biblical teaching and people then respond to that. Many people had commented on the blessings they receive from God following a prayerful decision to give more of their money and time.

MB and RAH confirmed that we have sufficient reserves to cover any deficit, if there is one at the end of 2010, but obviously there is a limit to how often we can dip into reserves.

It was therefore proposed that we agree the budget as presented.

Proposed by RAH seconded by RH and unanimously agreed.

3. REPORT FROM OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT GROUP

MB reported on issues discussed at OMG which have included:-

Whether staff are paid if they cannot get to work because of bad weather. The Personnel Group will become involved in this ongoing discussion.

Decoration/refurbishment work has been almost completed on Glendale and the Petersons are very pleased with their accommodation.

Church Buildings – there will be a quinquennial inspection this year.

Finance – OMG had discussed the new budget layout.

Risk Management Policy is in the process of being drawn up – this is a Charity Commission requirement.

Communication – a DVD has been made showing different areas of church life and will be shown at the licensing service for Paul Peterson.

Skills Database – this is under discussion.

Interior decoration of part of the church is now complete. The issue of use of the front balcony area is still to be finalised.

Security – the children who smashed the church windows have been apprehended and given 2 hours community service. They have worked with GG and AMcN and also written a letter of apology. JV said the school they attend has been very co-operative and our links with the school have subsequently improved. The OMG had considered installation of CCTV but now felt this to be unnecessary.

OMG were concerned regarding the security of the rear access door to church and proposed fitting a digilock. Some PCC discussion took place regarding the viability of this choice of lock and the overseeing of who has knowledge of the security numbers. It was felt that this information could be inadvertently divulged to others who should not have it.

It was agreed that although PCC are in favour of extra security this matter should be referred back to the Churchwardens for further consideration.

ACTION GG/ PC

4. HELEN JOHNSON'S APPLICATION TO TRAIN FOR THE ORDAINED MINISTRY.

Helen is currently in Uganda with Rev. Chris Dobson and others from the Bristol Diocese as part of her preparation and consideration of her calling. She is shortly to attend the Diocesan Selection Conference followed by the National Selection Conference.

It was proposed that PCC support Helen's application to train for the Ordained Ministry.

Proposed by RH, seconded by PEP and unanimously and enthusiastically agreed.

5. Licensing of Rev. Paul Peterson as Associate Minister.

JV confirmed that Bishop Lee will officiate and preach at the 10.30 service on Sunday 24th January 2010. It will be a service of praise and worship and thanksgiving.

6. There were no Safe from Harm nominations.

7. There was no correspondence to discuss.

The meeting ended with a short time of prayer at 9.20 p.m.

NEXT PCC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2010 @ 7.15 p.m. in Church.