

WONERSH + BLACKHEATH

PARISH CHURCHES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IN THE SELWYN ROOM ON THE 16th SEPTEMBER 2024

In Attendance

Rev David Peters (DP) Chair

Clive Couzens (CC) Secretary

Martin Keech (MK)

Darren Alford (DA)

Clare Hepworth (CHe)

Liz Lister (EL)

Rosie Twist (RT)

Alex Vinall (AV)

Charlie Wakefield (CW)

Mark Puttick (MP)

Patricia Allen (PA)

Anne Heine-Carmichael (AHC)

Alice Bounsall-Hughes (ABH)

1. Introduction and prayer

DP introduced the meeting with a reflection from Matthew 14 and a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Nicholas Bamber, Carmina Harlow, Jonty Shepard and Steve Vinall.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July had been previously circulated and were agreed as a true record.

4. Conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest would arise when discussing arrangements for the future of Springfield. CHe would leave the meeting at that point.

5. Matters arising and action points

The sale of the tents had been completed, along with a number of camp beds.

Appraisal of furniture and works of art – carry forward.

Discussion of marriage/blessings – carry forward.

Springfield – the tenants had been given notice and a departure in October was possible.

The members' area of the website is up and running.

6. Safeguarding

There were no incidents to report.

An older child with additional needs had come to Kids Church but in discussion with the parents was being advised to attend elsewhere because the environment was felt to be unsuitable for them and the other children.

DP reminded members that a DBS check and safeguarding training were required.

7. Health and Safety

Steve Vinall had advised by email that progress was being made on the fire report recommendations. MK reported on the installation of various detectors in church buildings. A vote of thanks to MK and Steve Vinall was recorded.

There were no incidents to report.

8. Finance

The Finance Committee minutes were circulated.

CW advised that the claim for 2023 Gift Aid had not yet been made. CC advised that there could be a significant delay in the processing of the claim by HMRC.

DP requested that a credit card for church use should be procured; this was approved.

The contract with the previous web host was still to be cancelled; it was to be confirmed that this would have no knock-on effect on the new host/site.

The final handover of the Treasurer role had not yet taken place. A few transactions from Q3 were still to be processed.

The accounts were running at a surplus of about £12,000 at the end of Q2, possibly translating to £20,000 at year end. Income was dropping slightly but there had been some one-off gifts and legacies.

A review of the costs and income of weddings and funerals was needed. **Action CW and Church Administrator** The price of advertising in the parish magazine should also be rationalised. **Action DP and John Gosden**

It was noted that VAT could be recoverable on larger capital expenditure items in the church. The Treasurer confirmed he would be submitting an application in the next week.

The Parish Share was under review; St John's would not be requesting a reduction, given the relatively healthy state of the finances, especially in relation to other churches.

It was noted that the loss of income from Springfield would have an impact on the church finances.

The financial affairs and accounts at St Martin's are yet to be handed over to the Treasurer at St John's.

Various recommendations from the Independent Examiner were being actioned and a full list of outstanding and completed actions would be circulated and brought to the next meeting. **Action NG/CW**

9. Ordained Assistant

Another church had withdrawn from the process for applying for a curate, giving us an opportunity to apply, which would be taken. We would need to provide accommodation.

10. Buildings

MK had circulated a report which was noted. The Parish Council had agreed to pay 50% of the initial costs of assessing the churchyard wall.

11. Springfield

(CHe withdrew for this item).

It was agreed that an application for change of use should be made, now that CHe would be moving in to Springfield and it would no longer be let commercially. The financial implications for the church were discussed. There would also be tax implications for CHe, and the arrangements for maintenance and utilities would have to be finalised. It

was agreed that the Finance Committee should look into these matters and make recommendations to the Standing Committee for final approval.

12. Worship Committee

Minutes of the Worship Committee meeting had been circulated. It was hoped to develop a vision statement, noting that the church wants to provide a space for the community, who want to share a common life, that the church has space, and teams ready to serve. A strapline of 'Being, believing, becoming' was DP's favoured option.

13. Children and Families

A report had been circulated before the meeting outlining the many developments. It was noted that most activities were aimed at women and children and that it was hoped to develop a greater ministry among men.

14. Any Other Business

Minutes of the most recent Deanery Synod meeting had been circulated. PA gave notice of a Deanery Synod social event on 16th October, at which it was hoped to establish support groups for various categories of postholders within the Deanery.

Signed: