

**MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2010 IN THE UNICORN INN**

Present: Hugh White, Glynne Bianchi, George Fenemore, Andy Bird, Pat Brittain, Wendy Burrows, Olivia Fenion, Iain Gillespie, Viviane Hall, Annette Murphy, Kristin Thompson, Elsa Williams, Jenny Ward, Jean Welford and the Secretary, Jennifer Childs.

Agenda Items:

1. **Prayers:** The Chairman led the prayers and asked for a period of quiet contemplativeness as we move towards the Easter period. We prayed for guidance from the Holy Spirit so that our work will be for the greater glory of God.

2. **Apologies:** Les Chappell and Viviane Hall.

3. **Broadband in Church and other technologies:** The Vicar welcomed and introduced David Rogers from Mill Close. David has kindly offered his services to the church and produced a paper on how broadband could be introduced in the vestry and some of the uses we could derive from being connected to the internet.

David's paper (copies circulated and on file) outlined his ideas. In summary:

- A project on recording the memorial inscriptions of the headstones in the graveyards. The Oxfordshire Family History Society will do much of the work and the inscriptions will be recorded on CD-ROM.
- A wired broadband link from the vestry.
- Continuing to record our services and making them available either on CD or via the internet or both.
- Broadcasting some of our services via David's web based radio station.
- In the future – making broadband available via an internet or intranet cafe within the church.

The PCC were in general agreement that the above should be introduced with the exception of the internet/intranet cafe which requires more thought.

David has agreed to help with the set up and technical issues, such as the provision of multiple email addresses for church officers.

The PCC accepted his very kind offer of support for his time, free of charge, and agreed that David should look into the installation of broadband in the vestry on a business tariff as soon as possible. He also agreed to look into the technical side of Skyping a baptism in May (as requested by the baptismal party).

4. **Sound system and microphones:** Several members reported that the sound quality appears to have diminished at recent services and events and in some cases the speaker has been inaudible. Iain reported that the sound system is in working order but that in many cases, it is user "error" that is causing the problem. Further training sessions for users and new users may need to be provided to ensure correct usage of the all the microphones and a restatement of the need to speak clearly when using them.

5. **Seating:** The PCC have received some direction from the parishioners on future seating needs following the meeting held on 20 February 2010. A number of parishioners have offered to fund the purchase of more oak chairs. The Vicar suggested that the PCC should consider whether or not more oak chairs should be purchased rather than be initially swayed by the offer of funding. The PCC should also give consideration to the future purchase of stackable folding chairs to accommodate larger attendances and events.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter it was proposed by Glynne, seconded by Kristin, that the PCC arrange to purchase a further 20 oak chairs, 6 with arms. Following a vote, 9 out of 13 members were in agreement and the motion was carried.

The current cost of the oak chairs is £225 with arms, or £175.50 if a donation is received which can be gift aided. Those parishioners who have indicated that they would be willing to donate money for oak chairs will be invited to make a contribution, ideally gift aided, to help defray the costs to the church funds.

In terms of folding chairs a clear favourite emerged from the samples set out on 20 February (this being option 6 which received 11 top votes). It was agreed that to replace all the current stock of chairs would

be very expensive and there are issues of storage if the current chairs are retained and more chairs purchased.

The PCC agreed that the purchase of stackable folding chairs is a longer term project, subject to funds being available. It resolved to ultimately look to purchase 208 folding chairs, of the type preferred by parishioners at the 20 February meeting, together with the storage trolleys. This decision will be communicated to the parishioners and should anyone wish to donate money towards this project, donations will be greatly appreciated.

In terms of coloured seat backs for the chair it was agreed to purchase them in blue, subject to the agreement of the APCM at which one of the proposed chairs would be on show. The voting is recorded as follows. (The beige colour is regrettably unavailable):

Blue – 6/13 votes

Red – 0/13 votes

Charcoal – 2/13 votes

It was confirmed that should no offers of money be received, the PCC will need to rethink the whole concept of purchasing folding chairs.

In terms of purchasing pews for the side aisles, Iain confirmed that the cost would be £1400 plus VAT per pew and that the pews can only be manufactured in runs of 10. It was agreed that on cost alone this would be prohibitively expensive.

Following further discussions about the desirability of re-instating pews in to the church it was proposed to bring back two pews to the Lady Chapel and to place them against the N wall, in the interests of maintaining a degree of a historical continuity in the furnishings of the church. The voting on this proposal was as follows: 11 in favour, 1 not in favour and 1 abstention.

It was therefore agreed that two pews will be returned to the church at a time suitable for George to bring them from his farm.

6. Youth Worker update: It was reported that 5 people have responded to the advert in Youth Work magazine. One application form has been received and one candidate has already withdrawn due to housing costs. The closing date remains 16 April.

7. New Secretary and remuneration: The Vicar reported that Anita Deane from Barford is interested in the role but would require payment for her services. Following a review of the hours information put together by Jen, it was discussed whether to make a payment on an honorarium basis of £1000 per year plus expenses. This rate will then be reviewed in a year's time. The motion was endorsed by Glynne, seconded by Iain and the vote was recorded as 10 in favour, 3 not in favour.

8. Zimbabwe Churches Emergency: Hugh Marshall has requested that the attached document be circulated and given consideration re. Funding for the legitimate bishops in Zimbabwe. It was raised that the PCC appears to have no formal mechanism for prioritising such requests which can be made quite regularly subject to political problems or natural disasters.

It was agreed to ask Hugh to run a collection at this weekend's Farmers' Market and that the case would also be publicised in church; thereby inviting private donations.

9. Comment Received: A letter and supporting documents had been sent to the Vicar regarding the planning application on the land behind the new vicarage. Following the sale of the two plots owned by the Diocese, the developer and new owner has applied for planning permission for 4 houses (original permission was granted for 2 properties and the vicarage when the land was owned by the Diocese.) There followed debate about the appropriateness of the PCC being involved in any correspondence on this matter given that it does not own the vicarage and it appears that the Diocese has also declined to make comment regarding the planning application. Following a vote, 9 PCC members agreed that it would be appropriate for the Vicar to write to Cherwell District Council, raising concerns about potential over development of the plots. 4 members disagreed with this decision.

10. APCM Arrangements:

- Draft agenda – was agreed and will be put forward at the meeting.
- Trustees Report – some amendments are required regarding the list of sub committees.
- Financial Report for 2009 – Iain reported that the figures are indeed accurate and that we have overspent to the sum stated and that this overspend was largely taken from the general reserve.
- Budget for 2010 – on review it was agreed that more work needs to be undertaken on the 2010 budget to ensure that all foreseeable expenditure is included.

It was proposed and agreed by the PCC that an additional meeting of the Finance Committee should be convened and the budget refined in time for presentation at the APCM.

- Minutes of the APCM – it was noted that the comments made by Andrew Green at the beginning of the Parishioners meeting are not recorded. It was agreed to let the minutes stand as is and be presented in their current format at the APCM. The Secretary has a list of minor amendments which will be actioned before copies of the minutes are circulated at the meeting.

11. Treasurer's Report: Encapsulated above in the APCM arrangements.

12. Sub-Committees:

Hempton - At Les's request more information regarding the project work at Hempton will be provided at May's meeting.

Buildings and Maintenance – Trees: Advice from the tree specialist has been obtained and his recommendation is to fell the Lawson Cypress. Although, not strictly required, George will start the process to obtain planning permission for its removal.

Church yard – George confirmed that a number of head stones have had to be laid down due to their unsafe state. Martin Ince from Deddington Parish Council will be arranging for persons from the council to lay down others identified as being in an unsafe condition. It was confirmed that it is the deceased family's responsibility to ensure re-erection of a headstone.

Church floor – Glynne reported that Alcocks will be in church on 12 April to undertake final repairs to the floors and grates.

13. Minutes of the last PCC meeting: These were duly signed.

14. Matters arising: None.

15. Minutes of the Standing Committee – 28 February 2010: These were duly signed.

16. Any other Business:

- **Keys:** Jenny Ward requested permission for another kitchen key to be cut for use by herself and Hilary. This was agreed to and the costs will be met by the PCC.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm with the saying of the Grace.

APCM:

Thursday 29 April at 7.30 pm in church.