

The Minutes of a meeting of the Minster PCC

Held 16th January, 2024 at 7-30pm in the Peter Harrison Room

Present were :- Rev'd Canon Jonathan Baker, Patricia Brunt, Chris Chipperton, Jane Chipperton, Paul Collins, Mike Dent, Eric Doyle, Catherine Drake, Jane Ewbank, Andrew Hancock, Sandra Keating, Sandra King, Rod McPhee, Hugh Meyer, Marjorie Neaum, Dawn Pollard, Joyce Shaw, Charlie Shefford, Marian Snowden and Kevin Wheeldon (20)

Also present were :- Pippa Milner, as Parish Accountant and Martin Eldred, as Clerk

Rod McPhee, in the Chair, welcomed all those present and the Vicar offered a prayer.

01/24 : Apologies - were received from :- Meg Choules, Kate Powell and Sue Robson (3)

02/24 : Possible conflict of interests - none other than those recorded in the register

03/24 : Minutes of the meeting held 20th November 2023 were approved and duly signed by the Chair as an accurate record of that meeting.

04/24 : Matters arising :

- **Treasurer** – no further progress to date, although a willing volunteer has come forward.
- **Safeguarding** – Meg Choules has taken on the role of Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are up-to-date with their safeguarding training.
- **Worship band** – A cellist has offered his services. There is a need for the band to be perceived as an inclusive group. At the moment it is workable but has no strength in depth.
- **Car Park** – Technically it is the responsibility of the Old Fund to appoint a solicitor to draw up a new lease but it was felt that it was not unreasonable for the Vicar to approach legal firms to gain an estimate for the work. **ACTION JB**
- **Parish Hall Legal Fees** – Thanks to the efforts of the Lay-Chair, the Diocese has agreed to pay half of the legal fees involved in investigating ownership of the Parish Hall. It was also reported that TC has opened discussions with the Local Authority about its interests in the hall.

Appointments to the posts of Mission Priest, Director of Operations and additional Assistant Virger are dealt with below

05/24 Finance Report : The Parish Accountant spoke to her report which had been previously circulated. Amongst the points highlighted were :- Fuel bills have now been received: Between nine and ten thousand pounds should come back from HMCE : The budget figures do not include any Director of Operations costs : The Diocese has contributed £1,250 towards the Minster's heating costs : Allowance has been made for the new electricity supplier : The Free Will Offer is being incrementally increased until the point is reached where it at least meets our costs. In response to a

question about the shop it was pointed out that “takings” are not necessarily a good indicator. As with any business the bottom line is “profit”.

The forthcoming closure of the Beverley Branch of Barclays Bank will cause problems. Moneys will have to be collected. The Parish Accountant is exploring possibilities. In response to a question about remaining with Barclays it was pointed out that we pay no transaction fees. A new banker would charge such fees and they would be very substantial.

Budget : The Parish Accountant then presented the proposed budget for January to December 2024.

It was proposed by CC and seconded by MN that the budget be approved . The proposed budget was unanimously approved by the meeting.

06/24 : Vision Strategy : DK’s report was gratefully received. MK’s report on Workstream H1 was also received and as a result of what was shown **it was proposed that a future meeting gives some careful consideration to the not insubstantial on-line-congregation. ACTION the Clerk**

The meeting wished to record its sincere thanks to MK for all his work in this area and beyond.

07/24 : Safeguarding – It was proposed JE and seconded DP that MCh be approved as the Minster’s Safeguarding Officer. As recorded above training for PCC members is up-to-date. The Chair will discuss with the safeguarding Officer the possibility of a team rather than a single officer. **ACTION RMcP**

07/24 : Premises – It was reported that quotes for work on the Parish Hall boiler(s) have now been received. There is no quote as yet for scaffolding to inspect the bell turret to the front of the Parish Hall. **ACTION PC**

08/24 : Deanery Synod – There was nothing to report as the Deanery Leadership Meeting was to take place the following day (17-01-2024)

09/24 : Eco Fair Debriefing – The final report is complete but has yet to be circulated to those involved before presentation to the PCC

10/24 : Vicar’s Reflection and Report – The Vicar reflected on Mk 2²³ the disciples plucking ears of wheat as they went through the fields “The Sabbath was made for man: not man for the Sabbath”

The Vicar invited the meeting to consider, amongst all the important but mundane issues that are dealt with by PCC, as the Minster was built as a window or a door-way to enable people to encounter God, what is the PCC doing to enable this encounter?

Briefly the Vicar reported - -

- There are three candidates short-listed for interview for the post of Mission Priest and similarly three candidates for the post of Director of Operations.
- Over 4,000 people attended services over the Christmas period.
- A disappointment was that there was no response to the “Learn more about the Christian Faith” meeting after Christmas but there will be an Alpha Course later in the year.

- At the end of January there will be a Joint 9-15 / 11-00am Service on the theme of Candlemas – the Feast of the Presentation.
- New editions of Orders of Service are on their way
- There will be a lent Course
- The Film Discussion Group is a good opportunity to invite those “on the fringe”
- The Parish Weekend is “shaping up well”
- In Holy Week there will be a Seder Meal, the traditional Jewish Passover plate, linked to Christianity

11/24 Enterprise Report – CC spoke to his report, previously circulated. Most fund raising events happen towards the end of the year. The Light Festival in February is the beginning of an effort to spread major fundraising events across the whole year.

The meeting formally recorded its appreciation of the success of the whole Enterprise Team and thanked them for their hard work.

12/24 Faculty Report – The report was approved by the meeting

13/24 : Human Resources - The only item not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting was to report that short-listing is taking place for the post of Additional Assistant Virger

Under this item the Vicar spoke of the need for an assistant organist. He apologised for not bringing the item to PCC through agreed channels but time scales* made this necessary.

It was explained that an assistant organist could possibly be appointed, on a salary of £7,500 pa, initially for three years, in a cost negative way using restricted funds – can only be spent on an assistant – and a grant from the Cathedral Music Trust - formerly The Friends of Cathedral Music – (*grant applications close in February)

Approval was given – no objections - to the putting together of a package, initially for three years, with the proviso that this included consideration of music and youth work as outlined in the Vision Strategy.

14/24 : Shop Report - Was received and JM was thanked

15/24 : Friends of Beverley Minster - MCh was thanked for her report

16/24 : Electoral Roll – No change was reported

17/24 AOB :

1. It was pointed out that, since MCh was now taking on the roll of Safeguarding Officer and standing down from The Friends of Beverley Minster and Churches Together in Beverley, there will now be vacancies for a PCC representative on both of those bodies.
2. CC asked about when Sanctuary Project ends, thinking about the space in the North Transept. He was referred to Mervyn King.
3. The Parish Accountant made a plea for more use of the Parish Giving Scheme as opposed to giving by direct debit, standing order or the open plate.

4. The clerk will forward York Minster passes to the Parish Office and a note will be arranged for the weekly news sheet

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8-50pm

The next PCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th March 2024.

Signed

Dated