

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RUSTINGTON
Held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.00 pm**

Present: There were 18 members present.

1. Opening Devotions

A member led us in worship to start the meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The vicar welcomed everyone.

Apologies had been received from two members

3. Minutes of PCC meetings held on: 9th July 2024

It was proposed and seconded that these Minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Lighting – during installation, discussion between the Vicar and then the churchwardens and CLS, there were some changes in what was required, which, overall, meant there was a slight increase in the cost. It is to be expected in jobs such as these for requirements to alter here and there; perhaps in future, the PCC could be emailed with any changes, just so they're kept in the loop.

5. Confidentiality of Minutes

There were no matters of confidentiality.

6. Health and Safety (Report circulated in advance)

There were no matters arising.

7. Safeguarding (Report circulated in advance)

There were no matters arising. The Vicar and Safeguarding officer will be meeting to discuss matters such as safer recruiting.

8. Utilities Update

The new smart metre has been installed and the first reading is due next week. We contacted EON to see if we could pay a set amount (£343) a month rather than what the metres say. This would help us to manage our expenditure over the year and it was agreed we should continue to do this.

Currently the night usage is higher than the day usage. It'll be worth seeing what the usage show when the metres are read.

Solar panels are permissible on the church but cannot be visible from ground level. We have a flat roof that is south facing, so it would be possible. Two members are getting some information and quotes for this.

9. Use of Church Building (see attached paperwork)

It was proposed and seconded that these two documents should be used. The Standing Committee will look at prices and come back to the PCC.

10. Finance (Reports circulated in advance)

Now NatWest is closed, some people are paying in the money at the Post Office; it is not as convenient – there is no hole in the wall for money to be put in to; all coins have to be bagged up so they can be weighed. To make things easier for those paying in the finance administrator suggested that she, witnessed by the office administrator, takes the leftover coins each month and pays in the same amount, (or slightly more) in notes.

It was proposed and seconded that we agree to this suggestion. All were in favour.

The good news is that the usage of the card machine has gone up immensely.

Thanks to the finance team for all the work they do on the account.

11. Sub Group updates

Reports were circulated in advance by some of the groups.

Buildings – the music stands don't fold down. It'll be checked to see if there can be a swap around of any of the equipment, or hang the music stands on the wall.

Social group – the Barn Dance is the next event.

The Finance Team has met and is working on the budget. The October PCC will be cancelled and we will instead meet on the 20th November, which will be a finance meeting.

The Vicar would like to create a time-limited sub-group to deal with branding. The new website will be launched in January, all being well. The PCC Secretary will help and we'll ask the wider congregation.

12. Staff Pay

We have not reviewed the organist's fees for some time. They currently get £40 for a Sunday service. It is worked out by the size of congregation and whether or not the organist is professional or vocational. Our organists are vocational and according to the set chart, we should be paying between £44 and £70.

For the morning service, it was proposed and seconded that we pay £60.00.

Weddings and funerals are charged to the family, by the organists, so that charge is not essentially set by us, although it would be good to have some guidance. The Vicar will speak to the organists.

Children and Family worker met with the Vicar for CFW review. CFW is currently working for more hours than we're paying her; she has lots of plans she'd like to put into practise – home groups for parents, an extra pantry session, school clubs etc.

It was agreed that we increase the salary and increase her hours to a fulltime role. CFW has taken on a lot of safeguarding issues as well as her "regular" job, as well as managing a lot of volunteers.

It was proposed and seconded that we employ CFW for 37 hours a week, with a All in favour.

Vergers are paid £40 for funerals.

13. Charitable Giving

A zoom meeting gave explanation as to why they're moving from CMS to CMJ. Very little change, other than more support on the ground. They're all about practical help.

They are going to be with CMJ; however, it's not clear exactly what they are doing. They haven't opened the church they hoped to, most expats have left, the little lambs group is very sporadic. He has not been very well and haven't been able to give CMJ any reassurance as to how long they'll remain.

It was felt we should support them until the end of the year and help their transition.

A longer discussion was had about how long we should continue and what our original commitment was.

It was proposed and seconded that we pay CMJ up to the end of the year and then review our charitable giving.

We need to review our third pot for charitable giving. We will, once again, ask the congregation if they'd like to suggest any charities, especially if there is a personal connection. We will also ask if anyone has a connection to a missionary or a local charity so we can review our giving to CMS (CMJ) and FSW.

14. Buildings

a. Radio relay system

It was agreed that we do not wish to continue investigating this any further.

b. Flags (request by Blind Veterans to display their flags)

Some good links have been made with the Blind Veterans. They have asked if we could put some of their flags in our church (they have 11). It was suggested that we put up another holder up on the other side of the war memorial in church and the flags could be rotated. On Remembrance we could display all the flags. The Blind Veterans are willing to pay all associated costs. We will keep all the flags for them and rotate them as their chapel is now closed and they need somewhere to lay the flags.

The Vicar will go back to the Blind Veterans and say that yes, in principle, we agreed and the churchwardens will take this forward.

c. Plaques (to go in the chancel)

It would be nice to acknowledge the money left in legacies; rather than plaques being put on specific pieces of furniture, it would work well to have a second plaque put on, next to the current one, in the chancel.

This was approved by everyone.

d. Christmas lights

The council are going to do all the Christmas lights for free – all along the trees as before.

e. AV

The original project to temporarily move the AV to the back of the church has been taking time and is costing more than originally thought. Trunking has been built. The buildings group suggested that the electricians need checking once this is done, as there are a lot of wires etc. Two quotes have been received. All the necessary hardware has been purchased and we are now waiting for the go-ahead to do the installation and get the work done and checked by one of the companies who quoted for the work. (Both quotes are under £500).

This project has started to cost a lot more than was originally thought, so it is important to be updated and we are so far down the line that it makes sense to continue and see it through.

15. Matters raised by the Vicar

The Vicar and Secretary are in the middle of doing the church diary. PCC meetings have recently become “nuts and bolts”; The Vicar is keen to do something with the PCC next year – an away day of some kind – vision type of things.

16. Matters raised by the Churchwardens

23 Henry Avenue will be empty when the Curate leaves. It needs a substantial amount of work doing; the conservatory probably needs removing, and some internal renovation. Time is important as new legislation for landlords will take place soon, meaning that landlords will no longer be able to give short notice. Churchwardens will start getting quotes for potential works. We currently get £1050 per month rent for 23 Henry Avenue.

17. Any Other Business/Correspondence (to be notified 24 hours before the meeting)

We have been asked about our current recycling:

As the church is becoming more ‘eco’ friendly, would it be possible to apply to the council for some recycling bins.

As we hold several gatherings and social events, it seems “un-eco” to be placing so much rubbish into black sacks and into the general waste bins. Items that could and should be recycled.

Understanding that this has been previously raised and the decision made not to have recycling bins, please could this be reviewed considering our commitment as a church to be more ‘eco’ friendly.

The Vicar will speak to the Hall committee in the first instance.

The meeting finished at 21.04 with the Grace.

Signed:
(Chair)

Date:

Dates of future meetings:

29th October Standing Committee
20th November PCC