

# Minutes of the Parochial Church Council, St. Peter's Draycott

*Held on 26/09/2019 at 7:45 p.m. at St Peter's, Draycott.*

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## **1. Opening prayers**

Stuart opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 18 and a prayer, and Thea took the chair.

## **2. Attendance and apologies**

<i>Present</i>		Pat Mullay	PM
Stuart Burns	SB	Thea Oliver	TO
Gill Dury	GD		
John English	JE	<i>Apologies</i>	
Chris Green	CG	David Cheetham	DC
Tricia Lumley	TL	Richard Dingley	RD

## **3. Any amendments/ signing of minutes from 04/07/19**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record after minor corrections; Thea signed them.

## **4. Additions or amendments to the agenda**

Item 6e was added.

## **5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes**

(Minutes from 25/04/19)

#6c. Health and Safety

Capping stone on wall- CG read out a mail dated 05/08/19 from Niall Robertson, Senior Asset Maintenance Officer from MDC. Crumbling coping stones had been dealt with.

(Minutes from 04/07/19)

#6a. Village shop. A Community Benefit Society called 'Draycott Community Shop Ltd.' has been set up. It will operate from a temporary trailer for two weeks while the shop is being refurbished. Sufficient volunteers/ supporters have come forward to go ahead.

(Related) 'The Café', Cheddar. This has received sufficient pledges for funds to meet its costs, and standing orders have been activated from the start of September. However the Community Church wish to pass over the responsibility for the Café to the wider community, and are investigating setting up a social enterprise (such as a Community Interest Company).

#6b. Safeguarding. Most training required for the benefice is now up to date, or will be (after a C1 training evening set up by Jim Reeve for 1<sup>st</sup> October). Also safeguarding details were now correctly displayed in the different churches. Stuart thanked those concerned.

#6c. Beech tree. The tree causing concern was the large beech tree in the middle of the graveyard, which had been showing signs of possible disease and might need the attentions of a tree surgeon. *ACTION*: PCC to keep a watch and when we next have the services of a tree surgeon on site we will ask for an inspection.

## **6. New matters**

### **6a. Autumn concert cancellation**

A concert had previously been agreed by the PCC, by email, organised by Barry Rose and to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Reasons this would not now go ahead were explained by Stuart.

### **6b. The 'Open the Book' initiative at school**

This is a scheme originating with the Church Army to take a dramatic re-enactment of bible stories into schools by drama groups. Resources are available, and we may make use of them in the future. Our current approach (used by both Stuart and Nikki) is to get the children to act out bible stories themselves. This seems to be working well.

### **6c. Tree cutting- Western Power**

Western Power needs to trim some of our trees that are encroaching on overhead cables. John has been dealing with them and has arranged for access.

### **6d. Choir stalls**

George Chedburn (church architect) discussed plans with David and Chris on his recent visit last Tuesday. The plan favoured was the removal of the front pew on either side, and pulling back the carved frontal to an appropriate position in front of the rear choir pews. This would give better access to the altar rail, provide better anchorage to the frontal (loose on the side opposite the organ), and give us a much more flexible space. e.g. An additional row or two of movable seating could be introduced for extra capacity as needed; or a bridal party could more easily get to the steps of the high altar easily where required. The PCC agreed to this proposal. *ACTION*: CG to proceed with faculty application on this basis.

### **6e. Inventory and location of church documents**

Stuart had brought a cache of old Draycott church documents in The Den in Cheddar to Chris's attention (service, baptism, marriage and funeral registers, faculties, etc.). Chris had gone through them and contacted the county records office at Taunton for guidance (NB. they already hold some of our records, and supplied a list). A few could be destroyed (old accounts books)- but most must be kept. We would keep recent records in the parish, but older ones could be taken to Taunton where they would be stored indefinitely.

*ACTION*: CG to circulate the document list and action plan for PCC approval (by email)

## 7. Continuous matters

### 7a. Worship (including feedback from Ministry Team)

- i. Ministry Team feedback (from 25/09/19). Topics covered included: memories of Brian Halliday; LWA course (4 in Cheddar, 1 Rodney Stoke); LPA course planned; Holy Communion at The Laurels; safeguarding; events in the churches.
- ii. Worship- requests etc.
  - The joint benefice service at St Peter's was lovely- we hope next one will be at an earlier time of year (and we will have a purpose-made service book).
  - Harvest (6<sup>th</sup> October)- Judith officiating. Order of service? We have one at Draycott, Stuart also has another one.  
*ACTION*: SB to send Thea electronic version of his order, Thea to decide which suitable
  - Remembrance- Stuart & Thea had previously agreed the order of service needs revision.  
*ACTION*: SB & TO will review this together immediately on Stuart's return from Spain
  - Christmas services- PCC had agreed by email that we would have a 9pm service on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Judith officiating), and a 10am family service on the 25<sup>th</sup> (Thea leading). Chris would be away. Will do this again next year- once Thea is ordained we can review.

### 7b. Synod and LMG

Next deanery synod- St Mary's Berrow 8<sup>th</sup> October; 'Inspire' evening (St Peter's) 17<sup>th</sup> October. We had received minutes from LMG meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### 7c. Finance

Current balances: General £16 694.69. Fabric £12 972.25.

David reported (by email) that the advertisers in the church magazine have not yet paid up for 2019, and there has been no gift-aid income yet this year. Rob and Sue Walker in Rodney Stoke have kindly said that they will take over the job of sending out new invoices to all the advertisers, though the money will of course still all come through St Peter's books, and they will be invited to pay by BACS.

John reported that the gift aid had been applied for.

### 7d. Fabric

- i. Window cleaning finished inside and out (not stained glass windows). These were much better- thanks to David for arranging this.
- ii. Damp- south transept is drying up nicely- George Chedburn agreed we could brush it down and repaint, provided we used the correct (breathable) paint.  
*ACTION*: CG will try and source paint
- iii. Damp- north nave. A new problem since last year and very obvious. George Chedburn though this was penetrating damp, possibly from the top of the nearby drainpipe- he suggested a blocked/ cracked hopper, or a blocked gutter. However CG had inspected the two gutters and hopper in question. None was blocked, and the hopper was in good condition. Some pointing is defective but this seems unlikely to be the cause.  
*ACTION*: CG will get back to George Chedburn for another opinion on the matter.
- iv. Churchyard maintenance. Chris had done some tidying (removal of rubbish outside shed, trying to segregate green waste), and will dispose of green waste from time to time. More

tidying needed. PCC agreed to an autumn working party.

*ACTION:* Will arrange a mutually convenient date by email.

- v. Back door (sticking). Richard Oliver and Rob Millard were getting together to lift the door from its hinges so the bottom could be trimmed. John and/ or Chris would help if possible.  
*ACTION:* Richard Oliver to mail Chris and John with further details

### **7e. School**

- i. Stuart had met the new senior teacher who is very keen on church/ school collaboration.
- ii. Stuart and Nikki are doing assemblies most weeks.
- iii. A new head teacher has been appointed for the federation but details are not yet public. He will start in January.
- iv. If anyone at St Peter's (or St Leonard's) can step forward to replace him, Mike Brownbill is happy to step down as a foundation governor. Mike is doing a good job but it would be good to have a more local link to the school (NB. Stuart only an associate governor).
- v. School harvest- 18<sup>th</sup> October. It would be nice if they could join us in church- perhaps approach them for next year?

### **7f. Supporters of St Peter's**

- i. Michaelmas Fayre- 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10:30 – 2, with ploughman's lunch. Offers of help welcome.
- ii. Harvest supper curry night- 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 7:30 for 8 at Strawberry Special pub; £12.50. Offers of puddings welcome.
- iii. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. – serving refreshments at the 'Inspire' evening.
- iv. Christmas Fayre, Coffee & Cake, Soup Lunch 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10:30 – 2. 'Nativity in a box' with participation of local groups.
- v. Festival Craft days idea. Two young mums have asked for permission to organise a church-based craft festival three times a year. SOSF would support and fund. Stuart and the PCC approved of this- it is just the kind of thing we need. Please supply details when available.

### **8. Dates**

PCC meetings:

- 28<sup>th</sup> November. Venue to be announced.

*The meeting closed with the Grace, which we said together.*