

ST MARY MAGDALEN, KNIGHTON

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held at 7:30pm on
25 October 2022**

Present: Revd Adrian Jones (Chairman), Amanda Beck, Beryl Bonfield, Sian Howard, David Palmer, Lorna Pollard, Judith Rudd, Nigel Siesage (Secretary) and Ida Stanyer.

Apologies for absence were received from Kate Adams

The meeting opened with a discussion of five Bible verses and consideration of their relevance to the PCC's work in the coming months.

22/86 DISABLED ACCESS

The PCC noted that the present temporary ramp in the north aisle, which provided the only access to the chancel from the body of the church for wheelchair users and those who find steps difficult, was inadequate and insufficiently safe. It considered proposals drawn up by the Diocesan Architect for a new stable ramp with handrails on either side. This would be removable if necessary, but would normally remain in place. It would require the removal of the front two pews in the Lady Chapel, or a significant reduction in their size.

The PCC noted that a faculty would be required for these works and **unanimously agreed** in principle:

- a) that the new ramp should be commissioned, subject to clarification of the cost
- b) that the two pews should be removed as part of these works, subject to appropriate consultation with the congregation
- c) that the space created in the Lady Chapel should be provided with movable seating similar to that currently in use at St Guthlac's.

It was agreed that the Vicar should notify the congregation of the proposals at services and through the newsletter.

Action: AJ

22/87 PLACE OF PEACE

The PCC resumed its consideration of the initial plans for the development of a place of peace in the churchyard (minute 22/78 refers). In the light of some of the issues raised during consultation, and unresolved questions relating to the previous disposal of ashes in the area under consideration, the PCC agreed that the Vicar should have further discussions with the designer, Tanya Willis, with a view to modifying the designs and revising the original time scale for the works. The PCC remained committed to the principle of providing suitable, attractive and accessible space in the churchyard for quiet contemplation by members of the community.

Action: AJ

22/88 PARISH CENTRE

The PCC received a summary of the discussions at the awayday held on 8 October 2022. This had focused on the condition and future of the Parish Centre. Several options had been

identified. An evaluation was to be commissioned from the Diocesan Land Agent. This would enable the PCC to define its preferred options and then to consult the congregation and the community about the way forward.

Meanwhile, the PCC noted that links between the PCC and operational management of the Centre needed to be improved. It **agreed** that a small group consisting of the Vicar, the Treasurer and a third member, to be drawn ideally from the Building Group, should take responsibility for such matters as the approval of minor works in the Centre and decisions on lettings. This group would operate as subgroup reporting directly to the PCC where necessary.

22/89 **SAFEGUARDING**

The Vicar reported that Ms Paul had now completed all outstanding safeguarding matters which had been within her responsibility and had therefore stood down as Parish safeguarding officer. The PCC placed on record its warm appreciation of the commitment that she had shown in this important function over many years.

The PCC noted that unfortunately no volunteer had been identified to undertake the role, and that therefore the Vicar would assume those responsibilities by default until a replacement could be found.

The annual report on safeguarding would be a matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

With regard to safeguarding training, the Vicar clarified that all members of the PCC should take the basic module, which was available online. The foundation level of training was also recommended as being better attuned to church life. Church Wardens were expected to take the higher level training programme.

The PCC recalled that a policy on the use of social media still needed to be developed.

22/90 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The PCC received a list of meetings for the coming 12 months.

22/91 **SOUND SYSTEM**

A revised quotation for the new sound system had been received taking account of the issues raised in previous discussions (minute 22/77 refers). The PCC unanimously **approved** acceptance of the revised contract with Noiseboys for £25,486.28 including VAT, noting that a faculty would be required. The Treasurer was authorised to make the deposit payment.

Action: AB

The PCC agreed in principle that a maintenance contract should also be obtained.

22/92 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 were taken as read and approved.

22/93 **BUILDINGS GROUP**

The minutes of the meeting of the Buildings Group held on 11 October 2022 were approved. The PCC noted that, as a result of a communication oversight, Mr Oldershaw had not been advised of the PCC's hope that he would serve on the group. This would be rectified.

Action: AJ

22/94 **WORSHIP**

The Vicar reported that he had consulted Mr Ardley as sacristan, Mr Relph as director of music, and members of the ministry team about arrangements for the beginning and end of eucharist services, as some clarification seemed to be required after the disruption caused by the pandemic.

It was noted that the possibility of providing new robes for the choir was under discussion. A new evensong booklet had been prepared in the standard style for St Mary's.

22/95 **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There were no specific incidents to report. Miss Howard had obtained a quote for the provision of a defibrillator (£1,140 inc VAT). The PCC agreed that consideration should be given to the availability of a grant or a fund-raising event before commitment was made.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm with Grace.

Chairman