

Minutes of PCC

Date of Meeting 21 March 2016

Time 7.30pm

Venue The Upper Room

Members present Antony Spencer (**AS**), Debby Bridge (**DB**), Brennan Horne (**BH**), Geoff Heyes (**GH**), Dave Atkins (**DA**), Issy Bartram (**IB**), Howard Brydon (**HB**), Sue Clegg (**SCI**), Carol Dealey (**CD**), Alison Earey (**AE**), David Harvey (**DH**), Stella Jennings (**SJ**), Patty McCulloch (**PM**), Helen Nixon (**HN**), James Reed (**JRd**), Kenneth Reid (**KR**), Janet Ryland (**JR**), Mark Roper (**MR**), Jeremy Thompson (**JT**), Lis Whybrow (**LW**)

Steve Foster (**SF**) in attendance

1 Welcome and Prayers

AS read from Mark Ch11 concerning the unproductive fig tree. He reminded us that Jesus is always looking for fruit. We in the church are to be fruitful and to be a house of prayer. Our job is to position ourselves to be fruitful. AS urged us to be fruitful in the workplace and to be positive, even in areas where we do not think we can be fruitful.

2 Apologies

Ben Collins Vinod Diwaker

3 Declarations of Interest

AS SJ (SF) staff
JT PM KR Living Stones
SCI Safeguarding Officer

4 Minutes

After two minor alterations the minutes were accepted following a proposal from LW seconded by JR. There was one abstention, the rest voting in favour.

5 Matters arising From the Minutes

SCI stated that all needed to sign the safeguarding sheet and that this task was almost completed.

DB stated that training for servers of communion would be given at some future date.

6 Finance

Approval of 2015 accounts

DH stated the examiners were happy with the accounts.

The details of the report had been previously supplied to the PCC.

DH highlighted the following key points.

Total Income for 2015 was down £100k compared to 2014

The most noticeable reductions were in the amounts received from one off gifts / legacies and toddler income. The previous year had been a 'financially good' year for one off income and the decision in 2015 to run Toddlers on two days not three affected income from that source.

Income from investments and charitable activity were slightly down.

The steady decline in regular giving (and consequent tax refund) since 2010 was once again flagged up as causing concern.

Total Expenditure for 2015 was down by £50k.

Little building work was carried out and there was little outside ministry to pay for. There was also a £14k decrease in the common fund payment. Salaries and expenses were up and financial help was given to the Resurrection Church in Beirut.

Overall the deficit for 2015 is only £7k. The original budget envisaged a £75k deficit. DH stated that St John's had been greatly blessed.

Answering questions following this presentation it was stated that a) the situation regarding possible asbestos in the building had yet to be clarified and b) it was felt the Crossway was still giving good value for money.

DH proposed the accounts for 2015 be accepted. This was seconded by KR and all voted in favour with no abstentions.

There followed a vote of thanks to DH for all the extra work he had undertaken on financial matters.

Approval of 2016 Budget

DH was pleased to announce the financial situation is better than was expected last November. The revised forecast deficit for the whole of 2016 is now down to £33k.

There has been an increase in income of £35k in regular giving and one off gifts. A recent legacy also helped significantly.

The proposed budget provides for major fabric repairs, server replacement and a new mixing desk. Living Stones provision is £152k (held at 23%) and ministry costs are above 2015 levels.

Total income is estimated to be £760k Total expenditure is calculated to be £ 793k giving a planned deficit of £33k.

DH proposed the budget be accepted. AS seconded the proposal which was unanimously accepted.

Pensions

DH reported that the pensions set up was now complete and everyone was now correctly assigned.

There was a vote of thanks to Ruth Downing for all her hard work in very difficult circumstances.

7 Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

Following a brief discussion and the deletion of a reference to Nigel di Castiglione as a point of contact the meeting voted unanimously to ratify the existing policy and adopt the existing statement. The motion was proposed by SCl and seconded by HB. An updated policy will be presented in May.

8 Review of the Role of Safeguarding Officer

JR will be meeting with SCl and DH shortly to review the details of this role.

9 Standing Committee Feedback

GH reported that at its last meeting SC had mainly discussed financial and safeguarding issues and the elections at the APCM.

There will be 5 PCC places and 4 Deanery synod vacancies to fill.

In the discussion that followed there was a plea for raising the profile of the Deanery (and Diocesan) synods. It was determined that Deanery elections should precede PCC elections. It was suggested that some training for Deanery synod members would be beneficial.

PCC were reminded that on 7th April members are invited to meet Leonard and Alison to welcome them to their new role in our church.

Thanks were given on behalf of the N.A.G. for support given them over the past few months.

10 Governance Subgroup Feedback

Terms of reference had been circulated prior to the PCC meeting.

CD reported that there had been one meeting so far. She stressed it was a sub group of the PCC and responsible to it. Following a clarification that it is also responsible to the vicar and in addition that the sub group

would look for areas of potential improvement the proposals in the terms of reference were warmly approved and accepted following a proposal from CD which was seconded by HN.

11 APCM

The APCM is on 20th April. There was a request for continued prayer for the church wardens, the Resurrection Church and the Alpha group.

12 A.O.B.

HN informed the PCC that the BBC was broadcasting The Battle for Christianity on Tues March 22nd and features Birmingham's City Pastors which involves several members of St John's church.

Staff members then left the meeting

13 Staff Salaries and expenses

After a presentation by DH the PCC decided to follow the Diocesan example and agreed to raise salaries and allowances by 1.4%. from April 2016. The motion was proposed by DH and seconded by JR. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed in prayer which focused on the fruitfulness of the accounts and on God's generosity.