

Minutes of Christ Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, 17 January, 2012.

Present:

Andrew Sillett, Margaret Burrows, Angela Sobosley, Tony Buss, Clive Tilling, Martin Palmer, Margaret Silver, David Bishop, Rebecca Nicholson.

Chair: Lewis Boyd.

1 Mark Elliott opened the meeting with prayer.

2 Apologies received from:

Silvia Ayres, Malcolm Wall, Robert Siderfin.

3 The acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Andrew Sillett & seconded by Margaret Silver.

4 There were no matters arising.

5 Sharing the work: Lewis outlined how some job descriptions need to be written: vergers, church wardens, etc, plus we need to establish sub-committees of the council to organise and facilitate the smooth running of various important functions. At the moment catering, flowers, etc., are being run by people who are unrecognised for their work and are beginning to feel the strain of doing it all on their own.

Lewis pointed out that the council must not discuss the roles of paid employees (Priest, Verger, Organist) as this is one of the functions of the Trustees, but council can suggest and advise.

Lewis then presented a description document, trying to define the various functions and responsibilities. There was much discussion about this.

Volunteers were asked for writing a definition of a role, to be submitted two weeks before the next meeting.

Lewis proposed a subcommittee on our "Outreach Work" to write a definition and bring it back to Council.

6 LMG: Christ Church congregation is going to St. Stephan's to worship at the 11.00 service on the 29th January. The service will include information about our weekend away together later in the year.

7 Revds. Angela & Philip have begun saying Morning Prayer together and invited the congregation to join them.

8. Mark Elliott reported that there has been no Trustees meeting since the last meeting of council. Only slow progress is being made on the negotiations about the School. This is proving to be a heavy drain on resources.

9A "thank-you" was extended to Janet Mahto for co-ordinating a clearing up session of the garden around the school. It was noted that more work needs to be done in the "hidden garden". David Bishop suggested a working party of himself, Andrew Sillett and Janet Mahto.

10. Clive Tilling has contacted the bollard company and is meeting them on the 30th Jan to sort out the bollards.

11 Brenda Wall suggested that parking needs to be looked at again as some unknown cars are appearing in the car park. Would stickers in cars help? It was agreed that this should be fed back to the Trustees. Parking has to be sensitively handled as the perception of the church by neighbours must be considered.

12. There has been no recent meeting of CTB (Churches together in Bath)

13 Deanery Synod: The Synod has been considering the Bath Deanery Pastoral Plan which includes a reduction in stipendiary posts. It is planned that more outreach work should be done by unpaid staff. Being considered are new ways of approaching "mission" and a general review process is underway. It was agreed that Lewis should draft a letter to the Rural Dean offering support to any parish needing help & advice from our experience of being without our own Priest.

14. Any other business:

Andrew Sillett explained that we are being encouraged to make giving legacies to church. Christ Church has no policy explicitly because most legacies are already labelled for giving. Canon Angela suggested that this needs to be part of a "Stewardship Sunday".

Margaret Burrows asked if there could be a contribution box at the back of church for contributions towards Genesis vouchers. We also will be asked, over the next few Sundays, to contribute to aid for the Women's Refuge in Bath.

It was agreed that at the next meeting we must fix a date for church Spring Cleaning.

Margaret Burrows is going to organise an evening activity for Shrove Tuesday (21 February).

The next meeting of the council will be on Thursday 23 February.

The meeting closed with the grace, at 21.20.