



**Minutes of the Meeting
of Christ Church Council
Thursday, 31 January 2013**

Chair: Lewis Boyd

Secretary: Brenda Wall

Members present:

Morny Davison, Angela Soboslay, Rebecca Nicholson, Sarah Kerr, Margaret Burrows, Andrew Sillett, Keri Chivers, Janet Mahto, Judith Bishop, Margaret Silver, Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall, Martin Palmer, Lewis Boyd, Canon Angela Townshend

1. Lewis Boyd led an opening prayer

2. Apologies

Mark Elliott, Bob Siderfin, Richard Gabe

3. Approval of minutes (20 November 2012)

The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Proposed Judith Bishop, seconded Keri Chivers

4. Matters arising

Andrew Sillett had sent the proposed letter of empathy and a response of thanks has been received (attached to minutes).

5. Review of restructuring plan for Church Council

It was felt that there is a need to explain to congregation the reason for extraordinary meeting to discuss proposed changes and a review of the restructuring of the church council. It is proposed that there be 9 elected members of council to stand for 1 year. The aim is flexibility as well as continuity. Other members could be co-opted as necessary.

The current sub-committees will continue. Representatives will be elected from each committee to report back to the council. Hopefully this will keep the process flexible and less unwieldy. Other church officers will be elected at the AGM as usual.

Margaret Burrows asked if someone could be in charge of welcomers and Malcolm Wall pointed out that this was already happening. Andrew Sillett reminded us that we all need to take responsibility for welcoming individually. Lewis pointed out that this is already in the R&R document. Andrew Sillett also pointed out that there is too much chatting at the back of the church which interferes with personal reflections. Can we do something about it. Angela Townshend suggested that we could have more quiet time after notices before the service starts and the Liturgy committee can look at this as well. She then also pointed out suggestions for the new direction for the council needs to be explained to the congregation. Lewis agreed to give a brief overview on 10th and 17th. It will also be on the website and enough copies printed to give to each member of the congregation. The extraordinary meeting will be 24th March and the Annual General Meeting is on 21st April. Lewis encouraged all members of the council to speak to the congregation about this. Council was reminded that a member has to be on the Electoral Roll in order to vote at the extraordinary meeting as well as the AGM. The Electoral Roll is due for revision this year. Lewis will write a letter to all members of the congregation explaining this and this will be available after the 10th.

6. Main agenda item – Roles and Responsibilities document

JB believes the title does not reflect the contents as written by individuals and should be changed. Angela Townshend suggested it should be called “Christ Church and its Mission, Church Council report 2013”. This was agreed. It was suggested that the congregation be encouraged to ask questions/make suggestions about the document. Sylvia Ayers congratulated Lewis and Judith on the document and thanked all contributors.

7. Regular Reports

(a) Buildings Committee

Sarah Kerr reported that the church architect has been and prices have been collated. A preliminary report has been produced but hasn't yet been discussed by the sub-committee. A discussion followed regarding the proposed trial layout of the church and council

members moved into the church to look at it and discuss it. This involved the sanctuary, the bringing forward of the altar and the moving back of the choir. This will be a trial for 18 months. Sarah asked if the council could clear the way for these recommendations to be offered to the Trustees. A vote followed. 11 in favour and 3 abstentions. A letter is to be written to the Archdeacon by Angela Townshend asking his permission for these temporary moves to be implemented. She also suggested that we look at other buildings with similar changes.

(b) LMG

We were informed that Philip Hawthorn is going into hospital for surgery and Angela Townshend has agreed to help out at St Stephen's. The council passed on best wishes and prayers.

(c) Trustees

The building at the back of church is now known as CC Mews. We currently have a problem with the roof but the inside of the building is almost finished.

(d) Churches Together in Bath

Sylvia Ayers reported that there is no meeting until March. Andrew Sillett reported that the Metropolitan church service was good. The travelling Light is off to St Thomas's Widcombe and will be taken by Ken and Sylvia Ayers. Plans have been finalised for the walk of witness on Good Friday.

(f) Deanery Synod

We had brief discussion regarding proxy votes at Deanery Synod but believe that this is not allowed. Andrew Sillett is to send an email to Jeremy Key-Pugh to ask for prior notice of any votes to be taken.

8. AOB

- The Link – Alex Soboslay has offered to edit the Link and Judith suggested we should look at this in conjunction with the weekly notice sheet. Lewis proposed that Judith and Alex get together to discuss this. Judith agreed to do this and meet with the Joneses.
- Genesis – It was asked who will take over the Genesis rota from Jane Kirkbride who is moving away from Bath. Lewis is to send a letter of thanks and a token of appreciation.

- Bequests – It was proposed that a piano expert be called in to assess the work required to get the piano refurbished and if this was possible or practical.

9. The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 12 March at 19:30.**

The meeting ended with the Grace at 21:25.