

Minutes of the Christ Church Council Meeting 13 January 2015

Present: Judith Anderson, Judith Bishop, Mark Elliott, Matthew Jones, Sarah Kerr, David Rawlings (chair), Sharon Rawlings, Andrew Sillett, Alex Soboslay, Brenda Wall (secretary).

In attendance: Robin Kerr.

1. The meeting opened with a prayer. **Apologies** were received from Margaret Burrows, Morny Davison, Bob Siderfin, Angela Soboslay, Canon Angela Townshend and Malcolm Wall.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (25 November 2014) were accepted unanimously.

3. Matters arising

(1) Organ repairs. Robin Kerr has been trying to balance the new heating system, but there is still a great influx of cold air. Mark will take this matter back to the Trustees to be re-examined.

(2) To help alleviate matters, it was decided that the heating should be switched on earlier every Sunday.

(3) The PA system is better than it was, but still not good. Martin Palmer has identified some problems. David Bishop has been in touch with a specialist company and will be setting up a meeting.

(4) There have been no offers to take over the running of the Cedar Tree Café. Canon Melvyn Matthews has agreed to do the rotas, but he will not be at Christ Church once he has moved to Wells. To be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Trustees' report

(1) Mark reported that the Trustees' meeting of 2 October was not quorate and the meeting of 20 November became inquorate, so a new trustee has not yet been appointed.

(2) The Diocesan contribution was discussed; Church Council has agreed a second payment of £5,000 for 2014, which is now due. The Diocese has asked for £15,200 for 2015.

(3) Council suggested the following dates for a joint meeting of Council and Trustees to progress building plans: Wednesday 11 February, Wednesday 4 February, Tuesday 17 February. Council will draw up the agenda.

(4) We need greater clarity about areas of responsibility now that Council has some financial responsibilities. Mark said Trustees need to remain a separate body to preserve our independence. Malcolm, Mark and David Bishop will find where we got to with devolution of financial responsibilities.

(5) It was agreed that a Standing Committee with members from both Trustees and Council would be a good idea with the interregnum coming.

5. Charities for 2015

Andrew, Sharon and Angela S to draw up a list of nominated charities for the next meeting. Pending a full list we agreed to nominate Water Aid for January, then St Dunstan's [now Blind Veterans UK] and Medecins sans Frontieres.

6. Planning for the Interregnum

The system that we used last time should work well again. Sarah Jones has much information, but the church profile will need much updating. Mark said the Diocesan housing allowance rate was not enough for Bath. Finances need to be looked at so we can offer a reasonable wage. Judith asked whether the Diocese might have a house we could rent. Mark to check with the Archdeacon.

We have a lot of clergy offering to help during the interregnum including Angela Berners-Wilson and Simon Tatton-Brown.

It was agreed that a Standing Committee ought to be set up and running before the interregnum. Its composition needs to be agreed. Mark suggested three Trustees and the two churchwardens, plus the Priest-in-Charge when appointed. To be discussed further by Trustees and Council.

7. Buildings

(1) Bells. The bells should be ready to ring on the last Sunday in January. We need to get the BANES environmental health people back to check their sound levels before ringing formally begins. First official ringing date to be set after this. Flyers need to be sent around to warn neighbours that we are about to ring, and some PR to the papers. We should invite the donors. Any other dignitaries?

Brenda asked whether the bell ringers are to be DBS checked? This would not be necessary unless children were ringing. Mark to ask Ian about this.

Alex said we still need to formally appoint the tower officials. The Trustees should write a letter of appointment. When ringing is established the ringers should appoint their own officers.

Security needs to be thought through. Zoned access to the building seems

to be the answer, and the ringers are going to have to lock themselves into the building if there's no supervision of the doors. Notices need to be put in bell ringers' cars to identify them, so there's no question about who's parking in the car park.

(2) Heating. Robin Kerr then updated us on the new heating system. The new boiler is having teething problems and a leaking radiator in the Lady Chapel has been replaced at a cost of £200. All the radiators were bled last Sunday. Judith asked if we can have some form of remote control for the radiators (such as the British Gas Hive system, which is just £159).

(3) Porch and entrance. We are still waiting for the architect's recommendations. Time is tight if we want to go to the DAC this month. There was a vote of thanks to Robin for all his work.

(4) Disability Access Review. Mark suggested that Standing Committee look at the recommendations closely. A formal resolution would be needed if any of them are not to be put in place.

8. Any other business

(1) Trustees' minutes. Sharon wanted to know if we can have the minutes of the Trustees' meetings rather than just a report. Mark said there might be some confidential matters, so this might have to be a redacted version. He will bring this up with the Trustees.

(2) Council minutes. A member of the congregation has asked how to find out about Council's discussions. Judith B and Alex will put something in the notice sheet and magazine to help people find the minutes online, and Brenda to put printed minutes of Council meetings at the back of the church for all the congregation to read.

(3) Sarah commented that moving the lectern after the sermon distracted from prayers and reflection. To alleviate this, we'll make an effort to move things only when there is other movement going on, such as after the Peace.

(4) Brenda requested more tie microphones for the children.

(5) Judith B wants the back of the altar covered as well as the front.

The meeting closed with prayer at 21:50. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 February 2015.