

Minutes from Council Meeting on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge,
Janet Mahto (Churchwarden),
Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden),
Georgina Bowman (Council Treasurer),
Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep),
Jude Bishop (Secretary),
Zoe Bushell,
Rebekah Cunningham,
Mark Elliott,
Richard Gabe (from 8:25pm),
Virginia Knight,
Sharon Rawlings,
Alex Soboslay,

The meeting started at 19.35 led by the Priest in Charge.

1. Apologies

Pauline Swaby-Wallace

2. Appointment of Secretary

Lore reported that Tosin would not be able to continue as secretary for council and asked for a volunteer. Jude Bishop offered her services. There being no other offers, Mark Elliott proposed approval of the appointment, seconded by Georgina.

3. Minutes

A few amendments were made to the minutes of 1st September 2020.
The Council unanimously adopted the minutes.

There was a pause so that council could pray for Malcolm, Brenda, and Alex Wall.

4. Matters Arising

A metal box has been found in the Lower Mews, but the Trust Deed was not in there. Georgina will look at the contents of the box and put it all in order recording the contents. She will also seek an archive to store all the paperwork and where necessary make working copies of documents.

On Lore's visit to Thrings they suggested that in 2012 someone had asked for the Trust Deed but didn't know who this was. Mark said that he was Chair of Trustees then but had no recollection of having requested it. Alex was working on the history of Christ Church at the time and would have asked Thrings for appropriate papers but did not access the Trust Deed.

Lore reported that Marcus Braybrooke had not visited Christ Church when planned due to Coronavirus risk, but she was hoping that he would like to visit next year for Christ the King.

Mark confirmed that the cost of the technical equipment had come in well below budget. He would

probably like to be purchased one or two tripods for some of the cameras but that would still be within the budget. Mark was grateful that some volunteers had come forward to run and assist with the streaming.

Lore welcomed new elected council members, Richard Gabe, and Rebekah Cunningham. She confirmed that Richard's term will be until the AGM 2023 when he will be eligible for re-election and Rebekah's term will run until the AGM 2022 when she will be eligible for re-election.

Cedar Tree Governance Review

At this point Lore handed over the Chair to Mark

Mark confirmed that the Report had been sent out prior to the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions.

As there were no questions, he suggested that we consider the recommendations of the group for the continued governance of the Cedar Tree (CT) operation.

There was much discussion including the thought that as the money taken every week was not sufficient to warrant a separate bank account the takings should be paid into the main Christ Church bank account but designated CT. The discussions culminated in deciding to accept the recommendation to "wind up the Cedar Tree Trust, formally hand over the operation and disperse assets to whoever takes over running CT in this case Christ Church Council". Jonathan proposed we accept this, seconded by Alex. There was unanimous acceptance of this.

It was decided that the churchwardens, a Trustee and, for legal advice, Peter Bowes (to be advised) should produce an operational guide for Cedar Tree going forward. This was proposed by Mark, seconded by Georgina. This was agreed unanimously.

At this point Mark handed the chair back to Lore.

5. Appointment of Lay Chair and other appointments

Lay Chair

As Matthew Jones had stood down from Council, he was therefore not eligible to be Lay Chair.

Lore asked for a volunteer. Mark proposed that Jonathan be Lay Chair. This was seconded by Jane Jonathan said he was willing. As there were no other offers, Jonathan was appointed.

Standing Committee

It was proposed by Brenda, seconded by Jane, that Georgina be re-appointed to the Standing Committee.

In addition, Will Willans had requested that he should only be co-opted to Council when there was something to discuss regarding the bells. This was agreed.

6. Worship

Lore reported that Marcus Braybrooke was unable to come to the Christ the King service, for his own safety due to Covid-19 risks, and it was agreed that he should be invited to the one in 2021 on 21st November.

Mark reported that as Covid-19 rules were very much up in the air as regards choirs singing he would ask the choir to return as soon as we are able and at this point in time he was hopeful that we could do some singing in the form of the Advent Carol Service and the Christmas Carol Service.

Rebekah and Jonathan were hoping to initiate a quiet contemplative space led by laity based on the Iona Community structure. It would run monthly and would be quiet and contemplative using the "Resurrection people" theme encouraging interaction from those who attended. Mark offered his wholehearted support as it would offer a more informal approach to a different type of formal liturgy.

Discussion ensued and it was decided that we would have to wait until we knew more of the Covid rules before launching this exciting prospect.

Following a very successful children's service at the beginning of the return to services Lore has been considering more children's services, perhaps holding these in the Lower Mews starting in January.

The latest Archbishop's letter encouraged churches to keep open for private prayer. Once we have clear guidelines, Christ Church would open for this on a Weds afternoon.

7. Re-ordering

Lore reported that Christ Church had received a donation from the Burrows' Estate on behalf of Cliff and Margaret. Discussions with the Trustees had decided that it would be a very fitting memorial to both that we use the money to finish off the screening of the South Chapel. Council and Trustees would send a letter of thanks.

Rebekah is making an altar cloth. The council thanked her for this.

8. Sidespeople and assistant churchwardens

Lore confirmed that the appointing of these positions was no longer an item in the Annual General Meeting.

It was suggested that we pause these appointments for the time being.

There was a short discussion regarding security at the back of church. Currently there are quite a few people at the back of church for the duration of the church services but that shouldn't mean that we should relax or drop our guard.

We should redefine the role of a sidesperson in the current restrictions.

Lore welcomed Janet and Jane into their roles as churchwardens.

9. Curate

Lore reported that the Diocese had offered us the chance of having a curate.

Kara who is 51 is a very sporty individual with a lot of energy. She is married with four children and is a Pioneer minister looking for opportunities outside the church.

She will start in Summer 2021, training while she is with us giving her the opportunity to grow and fail.

Mark said she is open and friendly and in a different tradition. He thought she would bring something to Christ Church that we don't have with a chance to work in the community. He reminded us that the Diocese had chosen us for this task not the other way round.

Jonathan found her very warm. She is an Academic in English and has worked in publishing as well as being an accomplished musician in violin and piano.

In the discussion that followed, concern was expressed that Lore would be even more challenged in her already busy ministry. Lore was aware of the council concerns but she thought with the support of council we should look on this as an opportunity

Virginia suggested that she would fit in with the variety of Christ Church congregation.

Council agreed that Lore should take this to Trustees for their approval.

10. Charity of the month

Rebekah spoke about the current charities, USPG for November and Genesis & Julian House for December.

The council were presented with a list of possibilities for the coming year; a variety of local, national,

and international projects.

We are committed to raising money for Malawi four times during the year and Genesis & Julian House in December. The children will choose a charity for one month of the year so this left us with six charities to choose.

The selection was as follows:

1. **Revitalise (Charity # 295072)** – providing respite care for carers
2. **Christians against Poverty (Charity # 1097217)** – offers a free debt counselling service working through churches
3. **Spafford Children's Centre (Charity # 802351)** – provides remedial education to children with special needs in Israel
4. **Just Footprints Foundation** – established to provide unique outdoor camping experiences with intentional learning and play for children with serious health and life challenges and disabilities
5. **The Oasis Community Pantry (Charity # 1138904)** – a local charity supplying a low cost, high quality surplus food each week to local residents
6. **Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association (BEMSCA) (Charity # 1090914)** – offers space where older members of the Caribbean, Asian and Chinese communities can meet and socialise with people from similar ethnic backgrounds

11. Decluttering, the west wall, and donor board

Lore reported that a list of items had been drawn up of items that served little purpose and should be disposed of. The list will be presented at the next council meeting for Council's approval. The other subjects in this item were also moved to next meeting.

AOB

- a. Jonathan thanked everyone who had provided reports for the AGM booklet and offered a vote of thanks to Alex who had collated the booklet.
- b. Georgina reported that she was looking into energy prices with a view to setting up a new 3-year contract changing suppliers.
Council agreed to swap to a more ethical supplier and hopefully to also make a saving.
- c. Virginia reported that the although the swift box had not yet been installed, Robin and Alex had this task in hand.

The meeting ended with the grace at 21:25

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 12th January at 7:30pm