

Minutes from Council Meeting on Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest in Charge
Janet Mahto (Churchwarden)
Georgina Bowman (Council Treasurer)
Jonathan Stead (Lay chair)
Brenda Wall (Deanery Synod rep) (from 8:20pm)
Jude Bishop (Secretary)
Zoe Bushell
Rebekah Cunningham
Mark Elliott
Richard Gabe
Virginia Knight
Sharon Rawlings
Alex Soboslay
Pauline Swaby-Wallace (Deanery Synod rep)
Will Willans (non-voting attender on behalf of the bell ringers)

The meeting started at 19.36 with a reading from the First letter of Paul to the Corinthians chapter 13 read by the Priest in Charge and followed by a prayer.

1. Apologies

Jane Nicholson (Churchwarden)

2. Minutes

Council meeting 9th March

There being no corrections, the Council unanimously adopted the minutes as a true & accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Bells donor board – Alex had questioned the actual amount raised that was going to be included in the text. Lore confirmed that £136,000 had been raised but with gift aid claims this amount rises to £162,000.

Swift box - Virginia confirmed that she had sent Alex her correspondence with the architect before the meeting was over and agreed that the swift box was now in place awaiting the arrival of swifts from Africa via Spain in a week or so.

Book of bequests and donations – Brenda has done further research into this and confirmed that there was a huge variety. She suggested we need to agree on a budget.

Georgina thought we should be looking at spending max of £250

ACTION

It was suggested that Janet might approach Keri to use her calligraphy skills for any annotations we might think suitable in the book.

ACTION

Lore and Brenda will look at who and what should be put in the book.

Alex asked how far back are we going to go. He also reminded council that we already record bequests and donations

Lore thought we should look at this as a living document and hold information known in living memory.

We need to do some more work into the type of content this book should have.

Richard questioned whether we should be including the actual amounts of donations or bequests.

Lore suggested we spend no more than £150. A vote returned 14 in favour, 1 abstention.

ACTION

Brenda will call the supplier and describe what we're looking to include and get their advice as to what is most suitable.

4. Trustees approved minutes for 25th March for information only were noted

5. Covid update

- a. **Bells** – Will Willans reported the last time the bellringers played the bells as a group was 15th March 2020. There was nothing after that until October 2020 when 3 people were ringing. Christmas Day they rang 6 bells. But Wil and Maggie have been ringing every week.

The bells rang out again on Easter Sunday following advice from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and one or two experts together with the Representatives from the House of Bishops.

As from 17th May ringers will be able to ring 6 bells standing 1m apart with a well ventilated chamber.

There should be easy access to handwashing and access to the ringing chamber should be straightforward. Christ Church bellringers will recommence on Sunday 23rd May ringing 6 bells where the ringers will meet at the usual time.

Lore confirmed that the Standing Committee supports the return and the hope that we will return to regular ringing with individual practice on a Saturday morning.

As June 21st approaches there will be more to think about

At this point Will left the meeting

- b. **Choir** – Mark reported that government advice for amateur choirs was not available yet. Informal advice from ABCD and RSCM led us to believe that we can resume 2m distanced and masked singing. Although this hasn't been confirmed by the government yet We will aim for a first rehearsal on Friday 21st May with Sunday 23rd May being the first service to have a live choir.

6. West End reorganisation report and sketches

Alex shared some very useful sketches illustrating initial thoughts of how the West end wall could look. The sketches were more or less to scale with reference to existing structures such as doorways and existing incumbents boards.

We need to work around and maximise the space we have available. Where we put things is for further discussion

The West end group came to the conclusion that the current pigeon holes could be disposed of. We wouldn't be looking for glass-fronted or lockable cupboards.

Council discussed what type of material we should be using. Felt-covered cork pinboard was favoured using fire-retardant material if possible. Colour & size and orientation to be decided. Virginia said that she thought we were moving away from the red colour and would favour moving towards a blue similar to the choir chairs.

It would be useful to have a 'mock-up' of how it might look and we will need a faculty.

ACTION

While Council favoured taller boards of ~120cm, Alex will look into prices of different sizes and also what eco-friendly options were available.

The question about the position of the Donor board was raised together with a welcome board showing useful information. Either in the lobby on either side of the space or in the church between the incumbents boards one above the other. A vote was taken and in the church was favoured 9 (including Lore):5 result.

It was also suggested that we look into pull-up banners that would be useful in the porch and in the church. These can be printed with our welcome message, have pictures of our contacts, such as churchwardens, etc.. These are inexpensive and we could look to having a few that we can change periodically. We should also continue with the Welcome table in the lobby.

Lore suggested a vote of thanks to the West end group.

7. Bells Donor Board – already discussed in matters arising

8. Decluttering

Of the list that had been agreed to dispose of items, Alex thought we might have a problem getting rid of the Prie Dieu. There was a difference between furnishings belonging to the vestry and those no longer needed for worship. The latter would require a faculty. However, Alex suggested he informally contact the Archdeacon for an opinion.

ACTION

9. Marketing report

- a. Jonathan and Jude had met on zoom to discuss how we market the church. A report had been presented to Council. Jude emphasised that this was a 'work in progress' document. The most important part will be to make the church accessible to everyone who needs it. So we work on two streams, for profit and non-profit. Whilst it would be great to make up some of the money we've lost in the last year, coming out of the restrictions perhaps we should consider footfall to be one of the most important factors in getting Christ Church back on the 'event' map.

Post June 21st government guidelines are such that 'events need not be socially distanced'. Council was asked if we would be happy to follow those guidelines?

Toppings are keen to run some events with us, probably starting in September.

Jude asked that council members be more involved and help to spread the load in the running of events. She will also prepare a short article for the Link on the subject of marketing the church and asking for volunteers.

- b. Lore asked Brenda and Jonathan, following their meeting, their thoughts on Open Church on Saturdays throughout the summer. Brenda stated that they didn't have sufficient information at the moment and that further discussions were needed.

10. Eco-church group

Rebekah reported that there would be a meeting on 10th June and she was pleased with the size of the group who were willing to be part of this. Members are – Brenda and Malcolm Wall, Sarah Jones, Janet Mahto, Robin Kerr, Morny Davison and Isaac Elliott

Churches together in Britain and Ireland, with support from charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah are encouraging climate awareness Sunday which can take place between 7th September 2020 and 6th September 2021. It was suggested that this could coincide with our Harvest Festival.

Lore mentioned that the Apse garden would be available once Charles & Carol Rice had moved out of their house.

Jonathan mentioned a Mechanical Engineering student that he knew who would be interested.

11. Summer Plans

- a. Sunday 20 June – Windrush Day. It was decided that the main bulk of this should happen on-line. Pauline confirmed that this would be a streamed service with recordings from young people interviewing their grandparents.

Lore announced that Bishop Ruth would be coming in person and Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin of Dover would be sending in a recording of her welcome message.

- b. Sunday 27th June – This was going to be a Service of Celebration for the completion of the works combined with the dedication of the chapel. However as the dedication needs to be done by a Bishop, the dedication will be postponed. We will be renaming the South Chapel which will be as a result of the ballot where the congregation will have voted for one of the following:

- i. The South Chapel
- ii. The Wilberforce chapel
- iii. The Te Deum chapel
- iv. The St Michael Chapel

- c. Sunday 4th July – Kara joins us as lay minister and she will be with us for three months getting to know people.
- d. Summer Julian Road Community Celebration followed by a Service of Lament for loss throughout the pandemic. The Celebration will, hopefully be on Sunday 18th July 12noon-4pm. We're joining with The Museum of Bath at Work The museum will offer an exhibition of the history of Julian Road as well as running a cake stall, bric a brac and games while Christ Church will be offering teas, bells, flowers in the church and an upmarket white elephant. There will be other stalls offering a wide variety of things. We hope to get BAMM involved as well.

Payment for all items and games would be by token paid for at a central point either by cash or contactless machines.

Any profit made from the event would go to a local charity, maybe Burlington House.

It was suggested that we ask St Mary's and St Andrew's if they would like to have an information table at this event

During the following week the church will be open every day for people to come in with prayers, light candles and dedicate leaves for the loss of family, friends, holidays and education. On Sunday 25th July we will have a service of Lament

- e. Sunday 5th or 19th September for Harvest Festival/ back to school service. It was suggested that we have Harvest on 5th and combine it with Climate Awareness Sunday
- f. Saturday 25th September Kara is deaconed in Wells Cathedral. As yet, Lore has no idea how many people will be allowed to go to the service. She suggested we might buy Kara all the Common Worship books which will help her in her training. This would cost around £150 and council agreed.
- g. Sunday 26th September Kara's first service as deacon

Lore also suggested we might run a Sermon series during August leading into Harvest Sunday on 5th September.

And Apple picking Sunday would be on 19th September.

12. AOB

- a. Date and time of AGM
Sunday 23rd May at 11:15am after the 10am eucharist.
Candidates for council members – it was agreed that an election will be held by ballot as opposed to raising and counting of hands.
- b. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 29th June at 7:30pm
- c. Charles and Carol Rice's leaving present - Lore suggested we give them amongst other things a facsimile of the War memorial book.
- d. Bishop Peter leaving service is on 22nd May – Lore mentioned that rather than give Bishop Peter a present from Christ Church we should send a donation that can be added to the money being collected for Bishop Peter by the Diocese. Lore suggested £50. All agreed.

The meeting finished at 21:34 with the Grace.