

The Parish of Farleigh Parochial Church Council Meeting

February 8th 2021 by Zoom 7.00 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

1) Meeting opened with prayers and a bible reading

2) Present:

Apologies/non attendees:

Revd Stephen Mourant
Debbie Scholey
Lyn Hardy
Bernard Cazenove
Viscount Lymington

Beverley Guinness
Annabel Portsmouth
Rev'd David Chattell
Eamonn Harding

Charles Palmer-Tomkinson
Julian Nunn
Lynda Plenty

3) Minutes for the November and *ad hoc* December meetings were approved.

4) Matters arising from the September meeting

Hill and Dale. Advertising rates have been increased this year, and will eventually align with those in Oxdrove. The rates have been simplified with no 'local' rate. One advertiser has been lost but several new ones have been added. As of the end of January Eamonn noted that there was £527 in the bank from subs and £1930 from advertising, a much better financial situation than in recent years. Jean and Ros were thanked for their efforts in turning things round and getting the magazine out on time.

Benefice website. Peter Raine is continuing with updating the site with new information about church wardens and ministers. **Action- Lynda Plenty and Eamonn could you contact Peter Raine and provide a short bio and photo if possible for the site.** The Dummer church website is in the process of being incorporated into this site. On line services and weekly letters continue to be added to the site. A meeting is planned with David Chattell and Peter to pass on contacts and activate interest in the Candover end of the Benefice for the web site.

Action D C to arrange.

Marriage preparation day. The engaged couples' evening on Saturday 6th February was held on Zoom, and the Preparation Day on Saturday 27th February will also be on Zoom, so catering arrangements will no longer required.

ACTION: Stephen to cancel hall booking.

Benefice Administrator. Unfortunately the person appointed last year decided to withdraw in January, realising that her skills were inappropriate for the role. Others are being approached and the search continues.

ACTION: David to continue to pursue possible candidates and report back.

5) PCC secretary vacancy. Debbie Scholey will continue to take minutes for PCC meetings and is considering the option to take over more of the role previously carried out by the PCC secretary. **Action DS to discuss with Gill Palmer**

6) Treasurer's report

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Last year the Parish Share was more than fully met. Due to an additional donation £1000 was paid in excess. In spite of the closure of churches the voluntary income has gone up this year. The on line 'donate' facility, whilst well used initially has not been used for several months. In order to avoid costs to use this facility, Eamonn will cancel this facility at the time of renewal. Next year the PS is reduced to about £58K.

Eamonn notified the PCC of his intention to stand down as PCC treasurer after the production of next year's accounts, ie Spring 2022. Eamonn provided a job description that can be used in discussions and searches for someone to take over the role. It was agreed to set up a sub-team to be responsible for finding a replacement treasurer after the ACPM this year. **Thanks were expressed for Eamonn's work on the accounts and all other aspects of the financial management over the last 8 years.**

ACTION: wardens and others to compile list of possible candidates

The PCC agreed that going forward it would be useful to purchase a dedicated laptop for the treasurer so that information can be stored centrally and not on the personal devices of each treasurer. **Action- Stephen to talk with Julian about laptop purchase.** This needs to be in place in good time for a transition from Eamonn to the new treasurer.

7) Church Wardens' report.

Dummer. Nothing specific to add. Details provided in the annual report text.

Ellisfield. Nothing to report over and above the summary in the annual report text.

Cliddesden. Nothing significant to report. Refer to the text in the annual report.

Farleigh. The work on the removal of moss from the roof has been completed, and electrical items have been dealt with by the estate.

8) Lango report. A review was prepared by Keith Monkhouse for PCC review. The Bishop is proposing that the Deanery change the overseas link and that we combine with another **Overseas link** and therefore cease to support Lango. In any event the Lango link is likely to lapse later this year when Stephen and Barbara both retire, unless there are willing volunteers to take it over. The question remained open about whether we combine with others for a new link or we retain Lango with new people to take it on. SM proposed that we could invite the Bishop of Lango to participate in our on line services via zoom as a guest preacher. **Action SM to follow with an invitation.**

9) Safeguarding. Nothing to report.

10) Playgroup report. A report on the activities of the playgroup was provided in advance to the PCC. **Action. SM to provide thanks and feedback to Melanie and Claire for their creativity during lockdown and restricted indoor activities.**

11) Christmas services. Generally considered that the 3 outdoor carol services went well although overall attendances were down on previous years

12) Rectors report. The Bishops and Archdeacon's consultation on staffing levels was completed at the end of January, and Bishops will be meeting with PCCs who are affected. Some posts will be removed and some boundaries will be changed, but DC confirmed that there were no implications for boundary changes in our Benefice. However our Deanery is losing/has lost several full time paid clergy due to two moving on (Alresford's rector and curate), one unpaid rector retiring, one associate rector to retire later this year, so deanery going from 7 clergy in post(5 full time, one half time, one unpaid) reducing to 2.5 (2 full time and one half time) by September. There are plans to replace one full time, possibly one half time and one House for duty. SM confirmed formally his intention to retire in September this year. DC has requested that the Bishop meets with the PCC to discuss the plans for recruiting a 'house for duty' role to replace the full time Priest's role currently occupied by Stephen. No timeline is yet available for this meeting. It was confirmed that the Ellisfield rectory may be sold and a smaller property purchased in Cliddesden for the 'house for duty' incumbent. BC noted that we must start planning for an 'interregnum,' something that we have done in the past. SM is encouraging people to come forward to undertake training to get the Bishops Certificate in Mission. No one has yet come forward. It does provide good training to support lay people leading worship.

13) Report from the CVS. The Candover Valley Store are launching their new community grant fund to support community projects. This could include any church projects/repairs etc. It was agreed that this would be raised at the DCC level.

14) Restarting live services. Stephen proposed a schedule of outdoor services in March with the idea of one service each week in the Parish. Eg Mothering Sunday -14th March, Passion Sunday 21st March and Palm Sunday 28th March. It was concluded that we could tentatively plan along these lines for March but that Easter service options should be held for an ad hoc discussion nearer the time. A general outline can go into H and D but as before the specifics of the services can be communicated via emails/facebook etc nearer the time.

15) AOB.none Next meeting: June 7th but may need an ad hoc meeting in March to confirm Easter plans. Future planned meetings September 13th and November 1st.