

**THE PARISHES OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, GREAT GRANSDEN,
AND ST PETER AND ST PAUL, LITTLE GRANSDEN**

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting
12 March 2019 7.30 pm
LITTLE GRANSDEN VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Little Gransden PCC: Betty Bates, Nick Collett, Sheila George, Ian Ramsay, Nick Wareham
Great Gransden PCC: Tony Bevens, Rob Chignell, Andrew Fogg, Rachel Fogg, Jim Harvey, Jane Middleton, Iain Strath, Jenny Wilkinson
Revd Rachel Blanchflower

Iain Strath took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- (1) Revd Rachel opened the meeting with prayers.
- (2) There were no apologies for absence
- (3) **Declarations of interest** – none were declared
- (4) **Notification of items of Any Other Business**
None were notified
- (5) **Approval of the Minutes**
The Minutes of the meeting on 20 November 2018 were approved and were signed by Iain Strath
- (6) **Matters Arising**
 - 6.1 **12 June 2018 Item 4.1:Ditch in Church Street, Little Gransden** – Oliver Hipwell had agreed to speak to Mark Barlow's son-in-law who had the necessary equipment for clearing the ditch. **Nick Wareham to follow up.**
 - 6.2 **12 June 2018 Item 10: Email role accounts** – No information yet available. **Rachel to investigate further.**
 - 6.3 **20 November 2018 Item 9: Fire Safety and Emergency Action Plan** – Nick Wareham wished to include this under item 12 on the current Agenda
- (7) **Priest in Charge Report**
Revd Rachel thanked the PCCs and the parishes for the very warm welcome she had received. She had enjoyed her first 5 weeks and reported that she was listening hard as she went around the parishes. She felt that there was an extraordinary potential and gifting in the benefice and she wished to think about things in the context of the whole benefice. Iain Strath responded that it had been an interesting 5 weeks for the parishes as well.

for further grants. A meeting has been arranged for 20 March with the Rural Dean to discuss sources of funding

9.2 Little Gransden

A written report and structural engineer's report were presented (copy on file) – some of the recommendations in the structural engineer's report had already been acted upon in the recent works. He commented that Herringbone has done a good job on the redecoration etc. **A full budget and accounts for the project would be presented at the next meeting.**

Nick Wareham reported that the clock still needs regular winding. The clockwinder wishes to retire. A quote was in hand from the previous year for converting the clock to electric winding and it was also suggested that Nick should contact Cumbria Clock Company (who had done the recent work on GG clock) for a quote. **Nick Wareham to present quotes at a future meeting.**

Service bell – the safety of using this before services would be investigated.

Sound system – a contact of Nick Wareham's would be looking at the church on 6 April to make recommendations for a sound system. Nick would also ask him to look at GG

Nick Wareham recommended that LG pause to take stock and review the feasibility study for the toilet and server before proceeding with any further works.

Ian Ramsay asked whether any grant money remained to be claimed? He wished to be sure all grant monies were in before claiming VAT refund. He noted that there was £73.02 in a restricted fund in the accounts to be put towards a new sound system.

(10) Treasurers' Reports

10.1 Great Gransden

A written report was presented (copy on file). Just under £2000 had recently been received from funeral collections and legacies. A generous donation of £7000 had also been received for the provision of a new sound system. The donor had requested that Revd Rachel and the Treasurer work on the requirements specification. Iain Strath agreed to send details of DM Music Ltd to the Treasurer. The same donor had also given money to be shared between the other churches in the benefice – this was to be disbursed at Revd Rachel's discretion.

10.2 Little Gransden

Ian Ramsay presented his report (copy on file), along with the annual accounts and budget for 2019. Ian presented the annual accounts noting that 2018 had not been a typical year because of the £9400 received from HMRC in the Gift Aid claim. He had assumed a 3% uplift on costs in the 2019 budget. 2019 would see a drop in bank standing orders because of the death of a regular donor. There would be a shortfall of £3912 on the general account in 2019 which could be covered by the interest on the Pickard fund. Nick Wareham commented that there was a need to increase the regular income – at present only ½ of donors live in Little Gransden. Ian Ramsay proposed and Nick Wareham seconded the adoption of the Annual Accounts and Budget - all in favour.

Iain asked when the PCC would review its charitable donations. There was discussion over charitable donations and it was **agreed that these would be on the Agenda for the next meeting**

(11) Safeguarding

The revised Safeguarding policy was presented. It now requires the PCCs to adopt the House of Bishops document 'Promoting a Safer Church'. The policy will be displayed on the church noticeboard and in the toilet at GG and on the noticeboard at LG. Revd Rachel proposed the adoption of the revised policy subject to the insertion of a version number, seconded by Nick Wareham. All were in favour.

(12) Health and Safety

Rob Chignell expressed the PCCs' gratitude to Nick Walton and Stephen Sullivan for their work on fire safety and health and safety. The PCCs were now without a dedicated Health and Safety Officer – Nick Wareham felt there should be one Officer for both PCCs. It was agreed to advertise in the pew sheet for a member of the congregation to oversee this with the responsibility remaining with the churchwardens. **Iain Strath agreed to send suitable words to Sheila George for the pew sheet.**

(13) Preparation of New Electoral Roll 2019

LG – so far 24 forms had been received, 21 were renewing and 3 were new applications – 17 resident and 7 non-resident. More GG people should be on the LG roll as it is determined by where people worship.

GG – 50 forms had so far been returned. **The Secretary would put a note out on Touchbase (completed). The rolls would be approved by circulation once completed.**

(14) Mission and Outreach

Jenny Wilkinson reported that 5 people had taken part in the Swimathon. Results would be notified once all the money was in. The Big Brew coffee morning had raised £261.85 and Teresa had sold £76.40 of Fairtrade goods. She would be taking a large bin bag of stamps to Moggerhanger - the boxes would remain in church all year.

The Committee was considering further fundraising for USPG and MIND.

Christian Aid week – once again envelopes would be placed in Roundabout, possibly for all 4 parishes.

(15) Roundabout

Iain Strath presented a report (copy on file). The accounts for Roundabout would be presented annually to the APCM and would be examined by the GG Treasurer before the APCM. **It was proposed and agreed that a pdf of Roundabout would be placed on the church website, Parish Council website and the Gransdens.org website.**

Jo Richardson had given 17 years of dedicated work as editor and had mentored the new editor. She had not wished to accept any gift in recognition of this but had accepted a Leech pottery bowl that Iain Strath presented her with.

It was agreed that Roundabout should in future carry a strapline clarifying that it was produced by the benefice for the parishes and also a disclaimer.

(16) School

The new Headteacher was proving to be a very successful appointment. Revd Rachel and Iain Strath had met the SIAMS (church school) inspector in school earlier. Iain Strath reported that there were 134 on roll. The school was having discussions with the group preparing the Neighbourhood Plan concerning school growth and new housing in the village.

(17) Dates of Future Events

GG Fete: 2:30-4:30 Sunday 19th May at the Old Fox, home of Martin Hewett (new occupants of the Old Vicarage were very happy to host in future years)

LG Fete: Sunday 29th June at Little Gransden Village Hall

(18) AOB

It was agreed that for the time being the sharing of Vicar's expenses would remain the same, that is 2/5 to GG and 1/5 each to LG, Abbotsley and Waresley. **Ian Ramsay would continue to manage the expenses and would confirm the shares to Abbotsley and Waresley PCCs.**

Fees would be discussed at the next meeting

(14) Dates of next meetings

APCM – Tuesday 9 April 2019 at the Reading Room, Great Gransden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Ramsay', is positioned in the lower right area of the page.

Actions:

- Item 6.1** Nick Wareham to follow up the clearing of the ditch bordering Church Street
- Item 6.2** Rachel Fogg to investigate further email role accounts for PCC postholders
- Item 8** Secretary to write to Phillip George with thanks for preparation of annual report
Secretary to arrange printing of 100 copies of report
Nick Wareham to prepare report for APCM on PCCs meeting jointly
Revd Rachel/Secretary to check rules for resolution that churchwardens can serve more than 6 years
- Item 9.2** Nick Wareham to prepare budget and accounts for LG restoration for next meeting
Nick Wareham to contact Cumbria Clock Company for quote for LG clock conversion to electric winding
Nick Wareham to speak to Phillip George about safety of LG service bell
- Item 11** New safeguarding policy to be displayed in both churches
- Item 12** Iain Strath to write advertisement for Health and Safety Officer for pew sheet
- Item 13** Electoral rolls to be approved by circulation
- Item 15** Roundabout accounts to be passed to GG Treasurer for examination and presented at APCM
Iain Strath/Nick Wareham to write strapline and disclaimer for Roundabout and pass to Editor
- Item 18** Ian Ramsay to confirm to Waresley and Abbotsley PCCs that distribution of Vicar's expenses would remain the same for the time being.