

Minutes of Little Gransden PCC held 15 November 2016 7:30pm
at 15 Church Walk, Little Gransden

The Meeting began with Prayer led by Rev. Catharine Furlong

Present: Rev. Catharine Furlong, Betty Bates, Sheila George, Suzanne Lawrence, Ian Ramsay (Treasurer), Stephen Sullivan (Secretary), Nick Wareham.

Apologies: Received from Janice Brown, Donald Lester

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 were read, accepted and signed.

2. Matters Arising.

Ian Ramsay confirmed that the signatories for the Barclays and CCLA accounts are now Betty Bates, Nick Wareham, and himself.

Ian Ramsay confirmed that he has now completed the handover of paperwork from Donald Lester.

Andrew Lawrence has been thanked for cutting the hedge between the Churchyard and Ian Ramsay's house.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Bazaar held on 12 November had raised over £1200. Congratulations and thanks were given to Betty Bates and to all those who ran stalls or helped, and to those who attended.

The handover of materials from Donald Lester to Ian Ramsay is now complete, but there is work to do in bringing the financial situation up to date and it is doubtful if we will be able to attend to all outstanding matters before the end of the financial year.

Discussion of current expenditure: We continued the charitable donations to USPG, Christian Aid, the Children's Society and Cambridgeshire MIND, but we will reconsider these in March. We confirmed that we were happy to continue the current arrangements with the Clockwinder. We expect to receive a bill from Donald Lester for the photocopying of pew sheets, etc., at the end of December. We noted with thanks the receipt of £100 from the Revellers for the use of the Church during the "Time Travellers" event.

Ian Ramsay presented the Budget for 2017, which is appended to these Minutes. He has incorporated an increase in running costs of between 3% and 5%. Note that the Gift Aid envelopes have now been stopped. Gift Aid is now more easily available for cash collections and standing orders, so that the envelopes are no longer as important as they were. Ian Ramsay intends to write to all holders of Standing Orders to ensure that they are still reflecting what is required. The number of services at Little Gransden seems to be decreasing, which has also had an effect upon income.

The meeting agreed the 2017 Budget unanimously. It was further agreed that the interest from the Pickard Fund would be put in the Designated Fund for general use.

The Organist, David John, is currently ill and unable to work. He is on a monthly retainer which will be reviewed in January. Payment is made by Great Gransden, and Little Gransden pays them a proportionate amount.

Ian Ramsay was thanked for the huge amount of work that he had undertaken this year in connection with the handover and the restructure of the finances.

4. Gift to Church in Memory of Victor Hughes

This would take the form of a commemorative platter, given to Great Gransden. The Little Gransden PCC were content with this arrangement.

5a. Fabric Report: Impending Works.

Nick Wareham confirmed that permission had been obtained for the roof repairs and that no Faculty was required. Natural England had agreed to extend the "window" during which work that might disturb the bats was permitted. There would now be a 10-12 week "window" commencing mid-September 2017. The rest of the schedule (approximate at this stage) was considered.

The PCC agreed unanimously with the process of issuing a competitive tender to the list of possible contractors drawn up by our Architects and listed on the appended handout. It was further noted that no member of the PCC had any Conflict of Interest with this tender.

The total project should be manageable with £30000 from the Pickard Fund and a Grant of £50000 from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, allowing for the refund of VAT.

It is possible (but not absolutely certain) that the Church may need to close for a few weeks and services move to Great Gransden.

5b. Fabric Report: Redecoration

The planned internal decoration project will be delayed by the rescheduling of the roof repair. We have appointed Tobit Curteis Associates as conservators, and they will be undertaking a paint survey in November.

5c. Fabric Report: Feasibility Survey

The feasibility survey prepared by Purcells, together with the cost estimate from Bremner Partnership, has been circulated to members of the PCC and was discussed at the Meeting. There would be the opportunity for Donald Lester and Janice Brown to give their opinions, and ultimately wider consultation would be necessary and useful. However the PCC felt that we should be clear about the preferred option, and generally we were in favour of the proposal in which the WC is accommodated with a robing room at the base of the tower, away from the serving area which would be in the SW corner area. This would however present problems for the choir, who would find it difficult to manage in the robing area that remains. There is still time for further discussion and consultation.

Thanks were given to Nick Wareham for all that he has done in connection with the Fabric and the associated discussions with third parties and grant funders.

6. Correspondence:

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) was established in 2009 to help and encourage Christians to flourish in the land of their birth, to ensure a secure presence where Christianity began. The Diocese has sent us details of this Charity, together with a DVD, that is being circulated among the PCC.

7. Health & Safety,

There have been no reported Accidents since the last Fabric & Finance meeting.

The First Aid Box would be replaced by a more modern version which would have a list of contents. Suzanne Lawrence has agreed to check the box on a regular basis.

The PAT tests have taken place. One set of Christmas lights has been disposed of, and a new extension lead is needed.

8. Dates of Next Meetings:

Mission & Ministry (Joint): 17 January, 7.30pm at Barnabas Oley School.

Fabric & Finance: 21 February, 7.30pm at 41 Main Road, courtesy of Betty Bates. *The Annual Report needs to be considered at this Meeting, prior to printing and circulation.*

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated.....

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES:

1. The figures for the Treasurer's Report (item 3)
2. Nick Wareham's detailed notes for the Fabric Report (item 5).