

**Minutes of Little Gransden PCC held Wednesday 24 March 2015: 7:30pm
at 45 Main Road, Little Gransden**

The meeting had been postponed from 17 March as originally announced.

The meeting began with Prayer led by Revd. Catharine Furlong.

Present: Revd. Catharine Furlong (Chair), Sheila George, Donald Lester (Treasurer), Ian Ramsay, Stephen Sullivan (Secretary), Nick Wareham.

Apologies: Received from Betty Bates, Janice Brown, Suzanne Lawrence.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014 were read, accepted and signed.

Matters Arising

Stephen Sullivan reported that free-standing cradles for the fire extinguishers would cost about £26 each and would not prevent them from being inadvertently moved to unsuitable locations. Sheila George and Nick Wareham had contacted three architects who were possible replacements for Shona McKay, and have been very impressed by one, whose references they have taken up. Stephen Sullivan has not been sent a formal reply to his letter, but it is understood that the Suspension of Presentation will be reinstated, and that this was announced at the Deanery meeting.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The PCC welcomed the news that Alison Wareham would be representing Little Gransden on the Mission and Outreach Committee. There did not appear to be any Terms of Reference for this Committee.

Electoral Roll 2015

Ian Ramsay presented the Electoral Roll to the meeting. There are 30 names on the Roll, of whom 12 are not resident in Little Gransden. The Roll was approved by the meeting, ready for the APCM.

Cremated Remains: Petition to Amend the Rules

The Bishop of Ely's Registrar has recommended that the PCC should request that the faculty dated 9 August 2013 should be amended so as to accommodate the wish of friends of a late parishioner that we allow the use of Westmorland Slate for her memorial stone. This would require an alteration to rule (b) of the rules as set out, which we would now wish to read:

all stones should be of the same size (15" x 15") *and of a type of stone as recommended in the Churchyard Regulations of the Diocese of Ely*. Stones must not be polished, and no text other than the name and date of birth/death is allowed.

The PCC resolved unanimously to petition the Court for an amendment to this effect. Action Stephen Sullivan, who would write to the Registrar accordingly.

Treasurer's Report

It was agreed to give £25 to the Leprosy Mission, as our part of a donation from the whole benefice, in respect of Trevor Grant's talk at Waresley on 11 January.

Donald Lester presented the draft figures for regular giving and for the fund balances, up to 31 December 2014. He had not yet finalised some of the accounts and we would need to meet before the APCM to approve the finalised figures. **Action All:** we would meet briefly after the church service on 12 April in order to approve the Accounts for 2015.

Donald Lester drew attention to the following points in particular: Regular giving was up slightly in the year just ended, but he expected it to reach a plateau next year. Our Ministry Share payment was £9000, which is slightly less than has been asked for, but it is inequitably divided among the churches in the benefice. Insurance was increasing substantially, but by annual steps that should be manageable. Income would be not much different from last year. Nick Wareham suggested that we should aim at setting a Target for our Income, and the meeting approved.

Donald Lester has served as our Treasurer for 31 years, and would be stepping down at the APCM. The meeting unanimously thanked him for his service and dedication during that time.

Ian Ramsay would volunteer to stand as Treasurer during the meeting for the election of officials that takes place after the APCM.

Report to the APCM

The Report to the APCM was circulated for approval, although it has been necessary to send it for printing already. It had been strongly suggested to Stephen Sullivan that the Report ought to be more detailed and systematic in offering thanks to the various individuals who had contributed to church life over the year. However, this could only be done with the full cooperation of the PCC. It would be necessary to arrange a timetable such that the Report could be properly considered and approved by the PCC, with time to change it if necessary before printing. This would necessarily include the Fabric and the Finance sections of the report, where individuals would be thanked appropriately. The meeting agreed to do this for next year, and approved the 2014 Report.

Fabric Report

The Chancel Project is now under way. Scaffolding was erected today, and a meeting between the Churchwardens, the Architect and the builder has already taken place. Our insurers have been informed. Work will take about 3 weeks but it will be intermittent, since the builder also has Easter holiday contracts with Cambridge colleges. Shona McKay is certain that the job will be finished by the end of April (within the period permitted by the bat roosts).

As a result of our application via Amey Cespa, the Cambridge Community Fund have agreed to give us £17000, subject to our payment of £1700 for 'third party funding'. The work will cost slightly more than this, and the Architect's fees will be payable also.

Sheila George and Nick Wareham were thanked for their work on the Project and with the appointment of the new Architect.

Health and Safety

The second 6-monthly inspection took place on 26 January and Stephen Sullivan had circulated a report with recommendations. The PCC agreed that a formal annual inspection would be enough considering the low level of risk.

The Health & Safety Policy was due for review, and a draft copy was circulated containing many revisions to bring it closer to the model published by Ecclesiastical Insurance (on which it is based). **Action All:** Members of the PCC would study this draft ready for discussion and adoption at the next meeting.

It was pointed out that Ecclesiastical Insurance had sent us a Risk Management Report dated January 2014 containing several time-constrained requirements which we have yet to meet.

Events and Dates:

The first of the series of Cream Teas took place after the service on 22 March, and was a great success. Sheila George and Suzanne Lawrence were thanked for their efforts.

The Fete will take place on 27 June; once again, Joe and Emma Ward have volunteered to host it.

The Bazaar will be held on 7 November, and Betty Bates has booked the Village Hall accordingly.

Any Other Business:

Members of the PCC who wished to stand for next year and who needed to have a nomination form were reminded to have their forms completed for the APCM, or preferably beforehand.

Nick Wareham suggested that the PCC Policy documents should be made available on the church website. **Action Sheila George**, who would arrange this.

Date of next Meetings:

Sunday 12 April: brief meeting after church service to approve Accounts.

Tuesday 21 April: Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Vestry Meetings. 7.30pm at Barnabas Oley School Hall.

Tuesday 30 June: LG Fabric & Finance Meeting. 7.30pm at 2 Main Road (courtesy of Alison & Nick Wareham)

Tuesday 29 September: Joint Mission & Ministry Meeting. 7.30pm at Barnabas Oley School.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed with the Grace at 9 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....