

Minutes of Little Gransden PCC held 27 June 2017
7:30pm at 2 Main Road, Little Gransden

The Meeting began with Prayer led by Rev. Catharine Furlong

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

Apologies: Donald Lester

The Meeting welcomed Nick Collett, who had been invited to attend as an observer.

1a. Minutes of LG Meeting at APCM, 25 April 2017.

A number of requests were made for changes, concerning Little Gransden matters reported in the main body of the APCM Minutes, as well as one change in the report of the LG Meeting at the end of the APCM: Betty Bates did not stand for election to the Deanery Synod at the Meeting at the end of the APCM, but she has since been co-opted to the Deanery Synod at the request of Canon Annette Reed.

ACTION Stephen Sullivan, who would convey these requests to Iain Strath (Secretary of the APCM) and then arrange for the corrected Minutes to be formally signed.

1b. Minutes of LG Fabric & Finance Meeting, 21 February 2017.

These were approved and signed by Catharine Furlong.

2. Matters Arising.

Ian Ramsay had still to write to holders of Standing Orders asking them to review their arrangements.

The organist, David John, has now recovered. We welcome his return to our churches.

Stephen Sullivan has prepared a Circulation List as a label, to make it more efficient to circulate correspondence or other documents between members of the PCC. He has also reorganised the file of Health & Safety and Inspection materials and certificates.

A check-list for the First Aid kit has now been provided and Sue Lawrence has made the first inspection.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ian Ramsay circulated a summary of the accumulated funds and investments, together with the Income and Payments for the Fabric Account.

It was noted that £250 had been given for the Air Ambulance appeal at Shirley Gillett's funeral; the money was passed on immediately, but it was agreed that it would be best practice to include it in our yearly accounts nevertheless.

The handover from Donald Lester is still not quite complete. Ian is working with Donald on the VAT reclaim.

Ian was thanked warmly for the time and effort given to the LG accounts.

4. Fabric Report

Nick Wareham reported that the Quinquennial Inspection had been arranged for July 25.

The 5-yearly electricity inspection was due and would be arranged. A contractor other than D.R.Darnell would be approached.

The ROOF PROJECT is progressing. The funding has been activated and invitations to tender have been issued. Four tenders have been finally received.

Little Gransden Parochial Church Council declare formally that there is no Conflict of Interest with any of the companies who have replied to tender. This resolution was made unanimously by the Meeting.

The cheapest tender comes from CEL. This company did the original survey, and so it is felt that their lower price reflects the fact that they know the site and understand the work to be done. They are recommended by our Architect. The start date for contract mobilisation will be in August, with work commencing on site on 15 September. Arrangements for bat protection require that all slates are removed by 31 October. An internal crash net may be needed. The area is difficult to access although the drainpipes and gutters need regular attention, so a fixed ladder and restraint line may be needed. CEL have a contingency charge of £15,000.

It was resolved that Little Gransden Parochial Church Council should accept Purcell's recommendation of CEL as contractors for the roof project. (Proposed, Nick Wareham: Seconded, Sheila George).

It is expected that the work will be completed by mid-December.

There is no reason why the Church should not be available for weekend services, when the contractors will not be on site. During the contract, we can identify up to four days on which we can ask them not to work, so that other services could be held if necessary.

The Meeting expressed its thanks to Nick Wareham for the very considerable work done in connection with the roof project, and for its continuing progress, as also for the other Fabric and maintenance matters which are ongoing.

5. Health & Safety

Stephen Sullivan reported that he had revised the Health & Safety Policy so as to provide a table of the details and dates of all regular Inspections. He also wished to include reference to the Broadlands Group report and to the Asbestos Register. The revised version had been circulated to the PCC and was adopted and signed.

6. Events.

a. Church Fete. The Meeting expressed its thanks to Alison Wareham for organising the Church Fete this year, and to her team of helpers. It had been a successful event held in the paddock of the Village Hall, and a repeat was planned for next year on June 23.

b. Autumn Bazaar. Betty Bates reported that this event will be held on Sunday 5 November at 2.30 at the Village Hall. Catharine Furlong agreed to open it. The opportunity had been taken to book the Village Hall for the next year as well, on Saturday 10 November 2018. Betty was thanked for organising this event.

7. Renewal of Policy Documents.

The Equal Opportunities Policy (renewed annually) and the Conflict of Interest Policy (reviewed every three years) had been circulated for consideration. No changes were thought necessary and the Policies were renewed.

8. Correspondence.

Documents concerning the "Giving for Life" campaign had been received from the Diocese and would be circulated to members of the PCC.

The Parish Council had reported that the drain at the junction of the pathway at the side of the churchyard and the path leading to the church door was blocked. Stephen Sullivan had replied

that this was a matter for Cambridgeshire Highways, who had adopted the path, but that he would inform the PCC of the situation. The PCC noted that it might be possible to rebuild the drain when the church was attached to the water and drainage facilities as we plan in the future.

9. Deanery and Diocesan Synods

The Meeting considered the Deanery Synod Report from 14 June, circulated by Rachel Fogg. We noted the requirement that all PCC members would need to be DBS checked in the near future and would have to undertake safeguarding training. There was some feeling that the two days of training at Ely, as proposed, was burdensome, especially since some PCC members undertook safeguarding training in their professional capacity.

In response to the report that the Lay Chair was keen to discuss future clergy deployment so that we would be ready to respond to any plans put forward by the diocese, we felt strongly that the situation would become much clearer if the diocese were to put forward their plans first. We noted the Deanery Planning meeting set for Saturday 2 September at Little Paxton.

A report of the Diocesan Synod, 7 June, was also circulated and considered.

10. Any Other Business.

The Harvest Festival would be held on September 24 at Little Gransden at 9.30.

There would be a "Come and Sing", as well as a performance of Karl Jenkins's "Armed Man" in aid of Help for Heroes in October.

11. Alison and Nick Wareham were thanked for their hospitality.

12. Dates of Next Meetings:

Mission & Ministry (Jointly with GG): 19 September, 7.30 at Barnabas Oley School.

Fabric & Finance: 21 November at 15 Church Walk (courtesy of Chris and Ian Ramsay).

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.02pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....