



Parochial Church Council Meeting
MINUTES
Monday 25th November 2024
7.30pm in the Conservatory

2024/25 PCC Members: David Bennett, Peter Breckwoldt (Chair), Steve Cornick (Treasurer), Nigel Day (Warden), Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Alan Fryer, Jenny Harris, Stuart Hull (Warden), Mike Jones, Paula Jones, Matt Lee (Associate Minister), Keith Loveless, Gillian Mannouch, David Morgan, Lisa Perry (Minutes), James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham.

- 1) Welcome & opening prayers (PB read from 1 Tim.Ch.3)
- 2) Apologies: Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Paula Jones
- 3) Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 23rd September 2024
David M: item 7c, where it says 'could be delegated to GAT sub-committee' - DM requested this is deleted. All approved. David wants on record that his estimate that giving would reduce by 5-10k. Mike & James proposed acceptance, carried by all.
- 4) Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)
 - a) Water Leak (Final Report)
MJ noted that the small amounts e.g. three pence have been down to fractions of electricity bill.
 - b) Review of Church Mission Week
PB between 900-1000 attended the mission week - and asked for feedback.
All guests enjoyed themselves.
The variety of event types was positive.
As a church family it was a bonding and encouraging week.
The week certainly focused us as church family on witnessing. It might be very helpful to have more testimonies to encourage the church family.
The review group was useful.
PB reports that other clergy are looking to do their own events week.
The review group took onboard the feedback about communications for mission week.
In answer to a query about what might the next steps be, PB responded that we have a special church anniversary coming up in 2026 and will be considering how to acknowledge this in the coming months.
- 4) Meeting with Diocesan representatives – update (see summary)
PB - it was a very productive meeting (please refer to the notes). ML summarised that he was encouraged by the journey that the meeting took from a flat refusal by Diocese at start to a change of attitude at the end. We do have a clear timeline for communication and actions.
- 5) Finance
 - a) Management accounts to September '24 - see paperwork.
Showing a deficit of 28077 mostly due to building works.
At the end of the income and expenditure, we had a small increase, better than forecast.
 - b) Major expenditure (>£1,000)
'Stewardship' - is for examination of accounts.
'Kings productions' - is for the mission week.
Share increases over the next few years have been included.
GM responded to a query over tax refunds: in accounts, GM has put an accrual of what we expect back. The difference is merely the months we have yet to claim. We have only claimed up to July, so there is more money to come in.
 - c) Fund Balances as per Treasurer's Report.
 - d) 2023 Accounts (Examined Accounts) - GM
Stewardship have changed the format from previously, so there was more work in presentation changes, but no significant changes from previous reporting to this meeting. SH - a real vote of thanks to GM for all her extra hard work, seconded by PB.

e) Budget 2025

SH outlined the draft budget - This has been reviewed by S & F and is presented to PCC for comment. Income 405k, expenditure, 431k, resulting in a deficit of 25,649k. This is a material increase on last year as Global Action finance is now incorporated into church giving. Deficit is roughly the same size as last year. Next year this will be higher due to higher staffing costs. SH ran through the attached paperwork. P2 detail: GAF on line 2 in inverted commas, as this may be combined with the line above. SH - Management accounts to be presented in a simplified format. DM feels that it is quite useful for it to be separated, GM says that they expect the top line to increase and the Global Action finance line to decrease to reflect the new structure of giving. SH comments that these will combine in the next iteration. Donations - these tend to be one offs and are based upon receipts in 2024.

Staff salaries - budget to increase 18k (not 21k as per paper) as the youth worker will be F/T once training is finished, which will add another cost from September 2025. NI increase and pay awards. This YW salary should be budgeted for (4k for the 3 months from Sept 25) >>SH to adjust

Church property maintenance is not the same as before due to the significant expenditure of this year. Will this be coming out of general fund? GM- 10,700 is the budget for general maintenance. Capital costs come out of reserves.

Strategies for deficit?

Mostly will come from unrestricted reserves, which is good stewardship as we shouldn't sit on high reserves, but there is an underlying deficit. PB says that we need to appeal to the church family and ask them to review giving accordingly. We have lots of positive messages to share with the family who can see where the money has been going. We have a lot of new attendees, some of whom have not yet started giving.

Resolutions:

- a) The PCC adopts the budget for 2025 as presented. PB Proposed, as amended as discussed tonight: SH, seconded, carried.
- b) The PCC approves the salary increases for 2025 as presented. Proposed: seconded and carried unanimously

6) Preschool matters

- a) Appointment of new Head: Sarah Baseley. Already a member of the Preschool staff team. Sarah interviewed well, was offered and has accepted the new Headship following Louise's departure. Sarah will be commissioned at a service in January '25.

7) Sub-committees – reports

- a) S&F – PJ not present, so PB reported:
 - DM - re the mention in staffing re appeal for staffing costs - we need to be up front about this early in the year - PB assures that it will be early and not a separate appeal.
 - DM - re PB's invitation to the USA under AOB - DM uncomfortable with funding this, as PB working for a US church. PB responded that the item was really there as a sounding board. Richard Meyabe from Kenya has not yet come back to PB with details and PB was keen to let us know about it as early as possible. Richard was invited to the US and Richard asked PB to be part of his team. No decision required tonight, PB will keep us informed as/when he is.
- b) BMG – PW reported
 - Please refer to minutes. Alan Courtney has joined, Trevor Wilkinson is retiring as of this meeting, a huge thank you to him for his long years of work. BMG thanks to KL, PJ for all their time and input over the summer works. Thanks also to Tim for his work.
 - 5-year plan has been condensed to a 3-year plan with jobs being prioritised, BMG are conscious of budget.
- c) GAT – DM advised that giving to Zaelyn was queried by our accounts examiner, Stewardship, who asked for clarification on the details and internal monitoring of giving to this partner. Following further investigation, it has been suggested that a UK charity is established, which will ensure that future financial

management is transparent and robust, especially in light of the retirement of one of the two key leaders of Zaelyn. Our own historical financial management is considered to be acceptable, and no changes are required to date.

- d) Y&C – ML reported: Jane Sharman has taken over as chair from Stuart. There is lots going on positively, looking at oversight on budget expenditure to tighten this up as an area for improvement. Thanks for the phenomenal job in FUSE and CORE, especially the huge numbers at the sleepover recently.
- e) Pre-School – see above. There has been a concern about numbers, but this is improving and change of leadership may help.
- f) Deanery Synod Report – PB: Please refer to papers - DM points out that these were not circulated. But JT, DM and ML attended. DM - Dorset Historic churches trust were speaking, and the bike ride had been a benefit, some mixed significance to the initiatives being shared.

>>Minutes to be circulated in due course

g) Activities / RA's to approve

h) Safeguarding

- i) Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Procedure (see paper) - (requires approval).

Resolution: The PCC approves and adopts the 'Responding Promptly to Every Safeguarding Concern or Allegation' procedure as presented.

- ii) Any concerns to report - the accident in the foyer was lady tripping over her own travelator by the automatic doors, where she had lingered. She has admitted liability. A sign has been erected on the doors to encourage people to enter and exit through the automatic doors promptly.

- iii) Church Activities (see paper) – Safeguarding requirement (requires approval).

Resolution: The PCC approves the regular church activities as presented.

Resolution: The PCC approves the document as the basis by which we will operate.

Dashboard - PB read the activities the PCC is required to approve (see the paper): query about vulnerable adults - pastoral visiting – suggestion to remove 'seniors' from that line.

With that amendment, proposed: JM proposed ML seconded, carried unanimous

- iv) Safeguarding courses: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php> (Please confirm to Paula date of completion, if you haven't already). Please contact PJ if you need assistance to access and complete the courses.

8) Staff Matters – nothing to report.

9) Membership of the Wessex Gospel Partnership (see paper)

Resolution: The PCC is:

- a) in agreement with the WGP basis of faith;
- b) In sympathy with the vision, values and aims;
- c) Committed to fulfilling the commitments of Partnership (including the £200 annual church membership cost)

Proposed by PB, seconded by JH, 3 abstentions, resolution approved by majority.

PB commented that he had initiated the idea of the WGP over 10 years ago. It has surged forward post covid and involves a significant number of churches across BCP and Wimborne. WGP - training, and thrice yearly leadership training, church planting, and mutual co-operation. Please check the website if you have any queries.

ML - for context- voted by a steering group a year or 2 ago, a basis of faith which could unit evangelicals, and is based upon the Christian Union basis from 1920s. The basis of faith on SJW website is also based upon this. PB - most BOF's (Basis of Faith) are based on creeds and often respond to events at the time they are made. This one tries to find a common denominator- no easy task!

Whilst balanced by many positive points of feedback, concerns included:

The Basis of Faith - felt biblically unbalanced and centred on only one part of Great Council of God in the bible and missing a joyful loving spirit.

5/11 points are to do with sin and so doesn't accurately reflect what God has done for us and what the bible message is.

The list is not representative of our faith, it may be due to the number of different groups in it.

Points 6,7, & 8 - bringing out different points, But 6 & 7 could be combined - it felt laboured and strongly worded.

Can we add into the resolution that we ask WGS to reexamine the basis of faith to look at rewording to reflect the bible.

Concerns that the BoF isn't appropriate for a training organisation.

ML responds that this is not the training, it is what those who teach on the course should sign up to.

PB and ML commend this to us, and say that is a blessing, and a marker for other churches.

It is not unchangeable, and PB happy to go back to them to ask to revisit the BoF.

10) Any Other Business

Future Meetings: 7.30pm on Mondays in 2025: 27 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May, 21 Jul, 29 Sep, 24 Nov