

General PCC Meeting at Hollow Trees Farm 7.00 pm, 21st January 2019

1) Present:

Keith Horn (KH) / Chair of meeting. Sally Bendall (Secretary) SB, Granville Bendall , Treasurer (GB) , Jill Leeks (JL) , Nigel Jennings (NJ) Prim Elford (PE) , Gail Warren (GW) Gwen Norman (GN) Wendy Hills (WH)

2) No Apologies:

3) The minutes of the previous meeting on 3rd September 2108 were signed as a true record by KH. (Amendment made to the date that reads 2108)

4) Matters arising, not covered elsewhere in the agenda :

SB has been shown by Trevor Mitchell how to add items to the village web site. She suggested a training course for others to assist with this would be helpful, maybe incorporating members from the Village Hall committee too.

A village notice board is to be erected at the start of the church track with the suggestion that the Church use half of it and Parish Council the other.

It was suggested an A4 paper with village updates could occasionally be delivered around all the houses in the village.

SB to forward church service emails to Jill Leeks.

There is to be a wedding in the Church on 1st June 2019. The bride and groom do not live in the benefice so they are to attend a service once a month. They would like the services of the flower arrangers. They are happy to work around the scaffolding if necessary. (If it is still in place)

5) **Financial report**

GB reported on finances. All 2018 bills have been paid including Richard Keens for the scaffolding. Suffolk Historic Churches will pay a £3,000 grant after the plaster work has been completed. If successful the Lottery grant will be paid, in part prior, to the work being completed.

The Carol service netted approx. £500 and the Christmas Day collection £270 (51 attendees) both very successful services.

6) **Deanery Synod**

NJ reported the Deanery Synod meeting on the 22nd November was lively. He noted the following points from the meeting: Members requested an explanation as to the justification for an increase in the quota when villages had no incumbent and finances were 'tighter' for all PCCs. A 2.78% increase in quota (to £291,156) was proposed. Members requested a vote on this proposal. Results being 6 in favour, 17 against and 3 abstentions. It was agreed that there would be a meeting of members with those who had actually set the quota. This would be arranged in order to explain just how the increased figures were calculated. Quota payments will remain at 2018 levels until the situation has been resolved. The date of the meeting will be circulated.

Members also asked where the money from the sales of the Bildeston rectory had been allocated.

It was also reported that the administrator, Nicola Thorogood would no longer work for all the Deanery but just for Hadleigh Benefice. She will undertake photo copying if requested but no further administration charges will be made to the villages.

7) Fabric of Church

Thanks were expressed to Nigel and Keith for completing the Lottery grant application forms and collating all the supporting evidence. It was suggested the video of the PCC rendition of Alleluia at the recent carol service should be sent to Dawn Bainbridge as more evidence of the community involvement. NJ to enquire if this is appropriate.

KH reported that quotations for the church building work ranged from £4,500 to £36,000 a vast variation. This was questioned by the PCC members but KH had gone back to the person who submitted the lower quote asking them to check their figure once more and it was confirmed as correct.

A video will be made of the plaster work and the plasters have agreed to give a talk to villagers too. It was suggested a 'gathering' once the work had been completed would be appropriate too.

8) Fundraising and Future events.

Village Quiz - SB will ask Michael Mumford if he is available to be quiz master on either March 23rd or March 30th. Village Hall availability to be checked too.

It was suggested that as the church will be decorated for a wedding on 1st June perhaps an event on the 2nd June might be possible? To tie in with the end of the plaster work.

SB to confirm dates for Harvest lunch September 15th or 22nd. This to tie in with the previously suggested a two day music event

Historic Church's cycle ride will be 14th September 2019

SB to email dates of events around to members once confirmed.

A Songs of Praise service was suggested.

9) Future Services

It was agreed that the church would be closed during April and May due to the building work. The last service to be held will be Mothering Sunday on Sunday 31st 2019. KH to inform Jill Taylor of this decisions.

The committee agreed that we would like our 2019 Christmas Carol Service to be on Sunday 22nd December.

10) Health Safety and Child Protection: Nothing additional to report.

11) AOB

JL is to contact Teresa Lest at Bildeston regards arrangements a Soup lunch in lent in Semer village hall.

It was agreed unanimously to support an extension to Diane Armour's Elders Commission. SB had received a letter requesting the PCCS opinion on this from Mrs Lesley Steed at the Diocesan office. SB will inform Mrs Steed of the PCCs support.

Trevor Mitchell has asked that the PCC consider if a past resident of Semer could still be buried in the churchyard if they had lived in the village for many years but had moved away of late. The PCC agreed unanimously this would be acceptable.

It was discussed with members that when a burial plot is chosen at any time in the future it would be advisable to have two people present to make the decision and record where the grave is to be for future reference.

A request for a headstone has been made by the family of Joan Nay.

Jim Sephton Reader Training:

At the recent Benefice church wardens meeting it was relayed that Jim Sephton has started discernment for Reader Training and needs minute PCC approval for this. The PCC members discussed and agreed to approve this. SB will draft a note accordingly and send to Jim as each PCC needs to agree and a copy of this minute signed by the PCC chair should be sent to Jim.

12) Next meeting to be held at Hollow Trees at 7pm on **Monday 4th March 2019**

Meeting finished at 9.05 pm