



LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday July 23rd 2020 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

<p>Present: Andrew Payne, Bill Gulland, Ray Shepherd, Sylvia Pepin, Malcolm Ward, Jane Cook, Sarah Bunce, Michael Standage, Celia Swan, Maureen Harris (Churchwarden), Peter Salisbury (Vicar), Mary Hill (Sec.) Observer: Jonathan Cook.</p>		
1	<p>Welcome and prayer: The Vicar welcomed everyone and opened the evening with prayer.</p>	Actions
2	<p>Apologies for absence: David Bridges (Churchwarden), Bronwen Bridges, Malcolm Haigh, Daphne Johnston, Barbara Clapper.</p> <p>Minutes: The Minutes of the May 28th 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening of the church for worship: Preparations for opening the church for worship the following Sunday were ongoing and minor changes were still being made. It would be a normal 8 a.m. service with a nave altar and the congregation celebrating with bread alone. Forty books would be available at the door and then they would be put in a box and left for 48 hours. Maureen agreed to be at the door to check numbers as people entered the church. A two-metre distance would be observed making a capacity of 30 worshippers. It was clear that changes might be made as necessary during the trial period. ● Recovery Programme: Peter had circulated his first draft of the status of activities at St Thomas’s which had been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This forms part of the St Thomas’s Recovery Programme. The PCC members were then asked to consider which activities could be started as soon as possible, which activities we would like to have back eventually but are impossible right now and which, if any, activities we do not need to restart. <p>After considerable discussion, the following was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is important for the smooth running of the church to have the Administrator back in the building as soon as possible. Gill is hoping to be able to return to working in the office in September. 2. Many of the activities of the church rely on using the Church Hall and it was agreed that it would be advisable to have a group that would consider all aspects of hall management so that events such as Vistas Café and its associated groups (e.g. poetry corner, stitch and knit etc.) might be able to restart. <p>Opening the toilets was seen as a priority if the Hall is to be open for meetings and for hire. It is possible that a new cleaning regime might be necessary in order for this to happen.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter’s Meeting with the Bishop. Peter reported that at a Diocesan meeting, the Bishop made it clear that the shortfall in income associated with Covid-19 is considerable and has meant that there needs to be a reduction in the number of vicars in the Diocese. Plans for these changes are expected to be made at the beginning of September. 	
4	<p>All Saints and Tops Nursery.</p> <p>Jonathan reported on the status of the Planning and Listed Building Applications for the Nave which have now reached what is hoped to be the final stage, in that the Planning Officer has agreed to forward to the Project Manager the conditions that would enable the NFDC to approve the project. Two unexpected matters have now arisen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since the previous Bat Survey was now two years old, a new survey was needed in order to accommodate the new position of the mezzanine and the type of hedge proposed for the SE corner of the site. This survey was taken on July 16th and the report will indicate whether a Bat Licence is needed. This may form part of the conditions attached to the NFDC decision. 2. It has emerged that proposed new footpath from Viney Road into the Quiet Garden runs on Highways land/verge and that permission (Section 1 licence) would be needed for the path, even though the land is owned by the church. The documents have been sent to the Diocesan Legal Adviser for comment. <p>In the event of permission being granted, the next step would be the making of the Church Commissioners Scheme and signing of the Leases. In spite of the problems associated with Covid-19, the Managing Director of Tops confirmed that she was ready to carry the project forward and that the Tops Legal Director had very few questions about the draft lease.</p> <p>The Steering Group also felt that now would be a good time to tender for the building work starting with a minimum build of toilets and central heating as phase 1 (main). The new central heating system would be paid for by the church and three quotations would be needed for the work. The maintenance team from Tops was ready to help with some of the work.</p> <p>The Project manager confirmed that he is nearly ready to submit the application for the acoustic fence. The delay was related to issues on rights of way and encroachments on church land.</p> <p>The monthly Hire Agreements for Tops’ use of the Nave and the Hall would continue to be used until the Lease was signed. The reduced rate charged over lockdown would continue over the summer but would reverse back to the previously agreed amount from the beginning of September.</p>	
5	<p>Finance</p> <p>Andy presented the Committee with a summary of the finances for the period six months to June 30th 2020. During this time there had been three months of normal activity and, since</p>	

	<p>lockdown, three months of abnormal activity. Total expenditure had been £ 3,000 less than budget but income £13,000 less than budget. However, we are very grateful to have received this year a legacy of £10,000 which has proved crucial in the current financial situation.</p> <p>In a good year, the income of the church roughly equals regular expenditure but since the lockdown in March some sources of regular income (e.g. Church Hall hire, numbered envelopes, church collections) and the reduced income from Tops has meant that our monthly deficit is about £4,000. This means a potential 12-month deficit of about £50,000. In addition to regular expenditure, there are potential costs of future building works. Under these circumstances, we would need a significant increase in regular giving by church members in order to balance the accounts in future. In addition, one-off financial gifts, legacies and appeals can increase our income but we cannot depend on them.</p> <p>At the end of December 2019, the PCC's financial resources totalled £693,422 and the investment account has stood up well to fluctuations in the financial markets.</p> <p>As in previous years, Andy proposed that the PCC agree to donating £2,500 to each of our four good causes, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leprosy Mission • The Mission to Seafarers • The Bible Society • The Church Mission society. <p>In addition, he proposed that we donate £2,500 to the New Forest Basics Bank. Sylvia seconded Andy's proposal.</p> <p>Maureen proposed that we also donate £1,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Coronavirus-19 Appeal . Mary seconded the proposal.</p> <p>The PCC then agreed unanimously to make these charitable donations totalling £13,500.</p> <p>In concluding, Andy suggested that he put a summary of the church's financial position in the Weekly New Sheet as information to church members. All thought that this was a good idea and agreed.</p>	
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Date of APCM: Mary reminded everyone that she was waiting to hear from the Diocese about further details of holding the Annual Church Meeting before October 31st. She will let everyone know as soon as more information becomes available.</p>	MH
7	<p>Peter closed the meeting with prayer.</p>	
8	<p>Date of Next Meeting: September 24th 2020 at 7:30 pm.</p>	