

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7.30pm

On Zoom and at the Church of the Holy Spirit by prior application

The list of those present is the same as for the APCM.

Minutes of the 2019 meeting

These were approved as circulated.

Appointment of Churchwardens

- Jennie Sullivan had been proposed in advance by Rex Thorpe and seconded by Carol Salter.
- Paul Mitchell was proposed from the floor by Martin Jones and seconded by Mike Pocock.

There being no other nominations, these two people were appointed.

Close of Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7.35pm

Present in person: James Levasier, Jo Levasier, Rex Thorpe (Secretary) , Martin Jones (treasurer), Paul Mitchell, Mike Pocock, Martin Vodden, Ella Nash, Jean Davy, Barbie Howarth, Jane Agg, Peter & Elizabeth Smith, Sandie Jones, Di Boyden, Ruth Boughton, Joy Peart, Ann Thirkettle, Annie Edwards.

Present on Zoom: Vik Howarth, Jasmine Runnacles, Olive Crosby, Jennie Sullivan, Roy Wigmore, Rob & Joan Gibbons, Val Tooze, Carol & Roger Salter, Ann Wright, Alastair Michie, Liz & Graham Rutherford, Debbie Smith, Pauline Mitchell, Claire Pocock, Nicky Geraghty, Alistair & Elodie Barry, Lewis Williams, Sue & Brian Kethero and Evelyn Brown.

Apologies for absence

These were received from Gillian Wood and Susan Denton.

Minutes of the 2019 meeting

These were approved subject to the correction of a few typographical errors.

Electoral Roll report

This was available on the website. The report stated that the number on the electoral roll is now 125. There were no questions about this report.

Report of the proceedings of the PCC and Presentation of 2019 accounts

The draft accounts for 2019 were presented by the treasurer.

It had not been possible to get these to the Independent Examiner in time for them to be reviewed by him. The PCC will approve the accounts once the Independent Examiner has signed them off.

The income shown by the draft accounts was much larger than in 2018 but the increase was due to large gifts from a single donor which the PCC has designated for special use. As a result, the surplus of income over expenditure is £176k. The treasurer also reminded the meeting that in 2019 the PCC also finished paying off the loans from the refurbishment works done a few years ago.

However, the draft accounts showed a deficit on the unrestricted funds of nearly £39,000 which means that the PCC's unrestricted reserves now stand at only about £4,000. The treasurer reported that the PCC will be looking to produce a balanced budget on the unrestricted funds for 2021.

The treasurer thanked Alastair Michie for his support and helpfulness in his role as independent examiner over several years. He will be retiring from this role not least because the size of the PCC's income now requires the accounts be audited professionally.

Questions were then invited on the PCC's annual report and the draft accounts. A question was asked about the finances for 2020. The treasurer reported that 2020 is working out in a similar way to 2019. This includes a further exceptional large gift which is unrestricted. It will be up to the PCC how much of it will be designated. Another question was asked about the loan to the Diocese. Why is interest being charged? The treasurer explained how the loan came about and that the Diocese had insisted to pay interest. The alternative for the Diocese would have been that it would have had to take out a commercial loan at a higher rate of interest. A further question was about the budget for 2020. The treasurer explained that, in terms of what was known at the time, a budget had been set for 2020 that was balanced but perhaps with a slightly optimistic view of donations. At that stage the effect of COVID-19 on the finances of the church could not have been predicted.

A question was asked about the speed at which the tithed funds are being paid out at a time of financial stress. The Treasurer replied that the Mission Action Team is recommending to the PCC that this money should be used strategically. Our mission partners have been asked whether they have immediate needs but several of them do not have such a need.

Appointment of an independent financial examiner

Our income is now so large that we need a professional to be appointed by the PCC.

Report on fabric and goods*

Several issues from the quinquennial survey, two to do with roofs, have not yet been addressed. Both roofs remain effective. At St Luke's the path to the church door has been renewed. The south window at CHS has been repaired. A question was asked about whether we will be applying for grants to help towards the cost of the repairs to the roof at St Luke's. The answer was yes.

Election of Deanery Synod Lay Representatives

Rex Thorpe was elected having been proposed by Jane Agg and seconded by Carol

Salter. Leaves one unfilled position.

PCC elections

There were five nominations for five vacancies and so the following were declared elected.

Alistair Barry, proposed by Paul Mitchell and seconded by Lewis Williams

Jane Agg, proposed by Joan Gibbons and seconded by Ann Wigmore.

Mike Pocock, proposed by Jean Davy and seconded by Lisa Scott

Jean Davy, proposed by Rex Thorpe and seconded by Jane Agg.

Gillian Wood, proposed by Jean Davy and seconded by Lisa Scott

Reports of organisations

These will be published at the APCM for 2021.

Report on safeguarding*

Questions were invited, but none were forthcoming.

Vicar's Remarks

James remarked that he was very proud of the church family because, amongst many other positives, (1) Burpham Church's finances are in a better state than many churches at this difficult time; James offered his thanks for faithful giving. (2) of the way that Burpham Care emerged at the start of lockdown, (3) of the work of Foodwise feeding thousands of needy people in Guildford, (4) Nicky started as youth worker at a really difficult time and is doing an excellent job, (5) Preschool is thriving, led by Gracie, and now more closely associated with the church.

James expressed his thanks to Di Boyden for her faithful service as churchwarden.

James also reflected on funerals and remembered those faithful souls who it has been his honour to know. He also reflected on the challenge to the church of COVID-19 and the upheaval in life caused by it.

Jo Levasier thanked the Pastoral Assistants for their work over the past 18 months and Anne and Eleri for their work on safeguarding, John and Valerie Boon for editing and producing Burpham Times, Jackie White for her care of St Luke's and Janet Robbins for her leadership of Drop In. Thanks were also offered to the financial team of Martin Jones, Lisa Shaverin and Alastair Michie for the massive amount of work that goes into keeping the accounts in order. Mike Pocock, our Assistant Warden and building guru, has similarly been donating lots of time and skill in his role. Finally, the husband and wife team of Paul & Pauline Mitchell were honored for their roles of churchwarden and churchwarden's helper. Small gifts were given to all those mentioned.

Close of meeting

Paul Mitchell thanked Jo and James for their faithful service and for the talented way in which they have adapted to the needs of the church as COVID-19 restrictions came into force. Paul closed the meeting in prayer for the vicars and the church.

*Documents associated with these items were published on the church website in advance of the APCM