

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL,
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, LINSLADE, HELD ON THURSDAY,
25th SEPTEMBER 2008, AT 8.00PM IN THE CHOIR VESTRY**

Present:

Bernard Minton	Jo Thomson
John Deighton	Carolyn Birch
Nick Moore	Russell Stannard
Pat Faulkner	Janet Miller
Carol Oakman	Marlene Richardson
Wyn Jones	Fran Morrow
Ian Woodward	Sarah Woodward
Simon Soper	Miranda Soper
Maureen Gadsby	Bruce Benedickter
Vernon Smith	

Apologies:

David Throssell	Vicki Faiers
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Fr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers. The minutes of the meeting of 24th July were approved. Proposed by John, seconded by Nick. All agreed.

Matters arising:

- 5/08** d) Sign writer – The four boards have now been updated to add Fr Bernard's name at a cost of £15.00 per board.
- 7/08** **Child protection** – Fr. Bernard has received a draft policy from St Alban's – it is proposed that this will be adopted by the Ouzel Valley Team and personalised by each parish. Fr. Bernard will speak to Dave Darvill to discuss the next steps.
Action: Fr. Bernard
- 10/08** **Stewardship Report** – Russell explained about Vision for Giving Sunday on 5th October. Russell, Fr. Bernard, Wyn and Ian are going to an evening presentation in Ampthill on 2nd October. Russell had a spare invitation if anyone else wished to go. The October edition of the parish magazine will have information about the level of giving required to enable our church to function. This information will also be given out to those who attend on 5th October. Russell was thanked for all his work on this delicate task. Sarah suggested that we have annual reviews and reminders about our level of giving.

New items for this meeting:

Items for AOB – there were 3 items to be considered.

15/08 Vicar's remarks

Fr. Bernard said he is now settling in and feeling part of the community. He reminded us that worship should lead us closer to God and that services should contain an element of fun!

16/08 Appointment of Treasurer

With the agreement of members present, Vernon was co-opted on the PCC. Ian proposed and Sarah seconded that he be appointed Treasurer and all present approved the appointment. Jo was thanked for all her hard work over the 6 years she has been Treasurer. Jo is now resigning from the PCC so that she can spend more time on the Hall project.

17/08 Treasurer's report

Vernon has been working with Jo to enable a smooth hand over of the finances. He distributed a balance sheet to show the financial position as at 18th September. He has produced a provisional forecast for 2009 and is looking at various ways to increase the giving and improve our funds. One way is for more people to be encouraged to Gift Aid their giving.

18/08 Proposals for the back of the Church

Fr. Bernard has now received a copy of the DAC report. There are various plans that will require faculties.

a) One proposal is to remove 4 pews from the back of the church, one from the south side and three from the north. PCC members went into the church to see what was intended. The earlier removal of pews was very controversial and it was felt there needs to be a clear plan for the use of the space created by removing the pews rather than it becoming a “dumping ground”. Fr Bernard is most keen to have a clear plan for this area and the DACs suggestion to use the architect who designed the link seemed appropriate. Jo will speak to John Hardern to see if he would do this and how much it will cost.

Bernard proposed that PCC agree in principle to remove 4 pews. Simon seconded the proposal and all present agreed.

b) Maureen proposed that a plaque in remembrance of Elaine Evershed be put in the choir stalls. Janet seconded this and all agreed.

c) Fr Bernard proposed the re-positioning of Icons, the Votive stand, the Prayer tree and Memorial book. (As explained while in the church) Sarah seconded the proposal and all agreed.

There was some discussion about raising the height of the high altar.

19/08 Hall Funding

A loan for £27,000 has been raised from the Dorothy Hall fund following the agreement at the last meeting that it was necessary and appropriate in principle to borrow money from a restricted fund. This will be repaid, with 5% interest, over a period of about 4 years. One source of revenue is a plan to charge for a limited number of car parking spaces available to suitable persons who commute regularly. Vernon proposed that, starting in January 2009, a minimum of 50% of the Hall Restoration fund income per annum be repaid to the Dorothy Hall fund. Nick seconded this and all agreed.

20/08 Report from Churches together

Wyn had attended the last meeting and was very impressed with the “Work Aid” presentation. We will collect tools locally that can be refurbished, by a centre based in Amersham, for use in Third world countries. “Open the Book” is in need of more volunteers. Also, another representative from St Barnabas is still needed to accompany Wyn at the meetings.

21/08 Standing Committee report

- a) The Deanery Synod meeting scheduled for October is cancelled. The next meeting will be in January.
- b) Nick reported on the recent inspection done by the Rural Dean. The baptism register needs to be in permanent ink and the new organ needs to be added to the terrier.
- c) Nick has arranged for the All Saints architect to do our Quinquennial and he will get a quote from their stonemason for the work required at St Mary’s.
- d) Church bookings – Fr.Bernard explained the procedures for putting items into the church diary on “Google”. There are 4 points at which data can be added – our office, All Saint’s office, Fr.Bernard and Wyn. This is not working too well at the moment but should do soon.
- e) As we are short of service books on some Sunday mornings, a few extra copies will be photocopied for use at the present moment.
- f) In order to attract potential grant givers, the hall project will now be called Linslade Community Hall project. This is what was always intended but was not always acknowledged.

22/08 Any other business

- a) Lay Ministers of Communion – Fr. Bernard has now heard that the PCC must give approval for those who administer the sacraments out of the church. He proposed that Fran Morrow, Maureen Gadsby and Sheila Deighton be approved to administer the sacraments out of the church. Vernon seconded this and all agreed. Fr Bernard will write to the Bishop of Bedford seeking his approval.

- b) Vernon pointed out that the parish magazine is not covering its costs and some of the advertisers have not yet paid for this year. This needs addressing and will be discussed at the next meeting.
Action: Standing Committee

- c) Maureen reported a large hole at the entrance to the car park that needs attention.
Action: Churchwardens.

The next full PCC meeting will be on Thursday, 27th November.

The meeting concluded with The Grace at 9.50 pm.