

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL,
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, LINSLADE, HELD ON THURSDAY,
26th MARCH 2009, AT 8.00PM IN THE CHOIR VESTRY**

Present: Bernard Minton Vicki Faiers
 John Deighton Carolyn Birch
 Nick Moore Russell Stannard
 Pat Faulkner Janet Miller
 Wyn Jones Simon Soper
 Carol Oakman Sarah Woodward
 Miranda Soper Vernon Smith
 Maureen Gadsby David Throssell
 Bruce Benedickter

Apologies: Ian Woodward Marlene Richardson
 Fran Morrow

Fr Bernard opened the meeting with prayers. The minutes of the meeting of 29th January were approved. Proposed by Fr Bernard, seconded by Russell. All agreed.

Matters arising:

- 18/08** a) Back of church –The plans arrived but still need considering. Nick has had confirmation from the insurers so can now submit the faculties as agreed.
- 38/08** b) Porch lights – these are now working but there is a further problem with those on the corner of the hall.
- 38/08** c) Bell ringers – There has been a fair amount of discussion about the wedding fees and funds relating to the Bell ringers. Fr Bernard explained previous procedures and the existence of their Nationwide account. There have been queries about the general and restricted fund; the ringers want more money to be put in the restricted fund, rather than the general fund. Simon pointed out that we need to detail the items covered by the restricted fund. Fr Bernard proposed that essentially we accept the ringers' proposals that £720 be transferred from their Nationwide account to the Bells restricted fund, and that future fees received for weddings and other bell monies will by and large be paid into the PCC restricted bells fund, but that in addition we should ask the ringers to reimburse, to the PCC, their adult subscriptions for this year, which have already been paid from the PCC general fund. Nick seconded this and all agreed.

New items for this meeting:

Items for AOB – there were 4 items to be considered.

39/08 Vicar's remarks

Fr Bernard is looking forward to Holy week, the most special time of the year for us all. He informed us that the Bishop of St Alban's enthronement is now 19th September, so he will not be visiting us in July.

All PCC members are invited to a "Team" day on Saturday, 16th May. All Saints office sent papers to be distributed about this event and Fr Bernard urged all PCC members to attend if possible.

40/08 Child Protection update

Carolyn, Ian and Dave Darvill have all been on training courses for Child Protection. The CRB checks are being done and recorded in a file for easy checking. Chris Lees has seen our policy and has not queried any part of it. Carolyn suggested that we adopt the policy as it stands, distribute to all interested parties and review it annually at the first meeting after the APCM. Fr Bernard proposed that we accept the policy, Maureen seconded it and all agreed.

41/08 Treasurer's report

Vernon distributed figures for the first quarter of 2009. He is now breaking down the figures for utilities for St Barnabas, the hall, St Mary's and the cottage so that usage can be compared more readily. He has paid the first quarter of our parish share and will transfer £1,500 from the Hall restoration fund to the Dorothy Hall fund as previously agreed.

Funds for Outreach were discussed. Fr Bernard proposed that the church match funds raised by Outreach, so that approx £1400 will be distributed to our 3 charities. Carol seconded this and all agreed. Vernon will arrange for the cheques to be raised.

42/08 Procedures for counting and banking money

It is not good practise for Vernon to receive, count and bank all the money as well as being treasurer. In future, Chris Hart and Tony Birch will, together, count and bank cash received by the church.

43/08 To accept Churchwardens report for APCM

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. Nick explained that many items were ongoing but it was correct at the time of writing the report! He also reminded PCC that he is about to enter his 5th Year of being church warden

and we should be considering a successor. Fr Bernard thanked the Churchwardens for all their support and hard work. He proposed that we accept the report. Russell seconded this and all agreed.

44/08 To accept PCC report for APCM

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. It is a summary of the business of the PCC and needed little explanation. Fr Bernard thanked Carolyn for producing the report and proposed that it be accepted. Pat seconded this and all agreed.

45/08 To approve Annual accounts for APCM

A copy of the independently examined accounts was distributed at the meeting. Vernon explained the various pages and procedures. Fr Bernard thanked Vernon for taking on the position of Treasurer and for all his work. He proposed that we approve the accounts. Simon seconded this and all agreed.

46/08 Hall report

There was little extra to report. The hall bookings have increased and Jo is working on the fund raising activities that include approaching other charities for grants.

47/08 Fire Risk assessment

Nick explained that we have to do and review a fire risk assessment periodically. He, as the “responsible person”, has completed the forms for the various parts of both churches, hall and cottage. He would welcome comments. The ringing chamber was identified as a potential risk so smoke detectors, optical and audible, have been installed. The smoke detectors round the building need testing weekly.

48/08 Cycle Stands

Beds highways department propose to install 2 cycle stands in the church car park. Nick proposed that we accept the offer. Fr Bernard seconded this and all agreed.

49/08 Standing Committee report

Nick reported that the Diocese has registered St Mary’s with the Land Registry and there are no problems with ownership. We are waiting for the report about St Barnabas, the hall and associated grounds.

50/08 Any other business

- a) Fr Bernard said that at the last meeting of the Team clergy, they were asked to discuss with their respective PCCs at what age we should confirm children. Traditionally this has been 11/12 years but this is possibly too young particularly if we are admitting children to taking communion from about 8 years. It is proposed not to confirm children until they are 14. Everyone was happy with this proposal.
- b) The Bishop of Bedford's Passiontide appeal is for Zimbabwe. It was agreed that there will be a collection from the congregation.
- c) John raised a problem with the link doors. People are experiencing difficulties with locking them; we need the locks to be looked at and explore the possibility of replacing them higher up the doors.
- d) Representatives are needed for the Diocesan Synod.

Russell said that the 10 o'clock service on Mothering Sunday was wonderful!

The next full PCC meeting will be on Thursday, 28th May 2009

The meeting concluded with The Grace at 9.45 pm.