

Minutes of Rushen PCC meeting held in St Catherine's Church Hall Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7pm

Present: Rev Joe Heaton (Chairman), Heather Daykin, June Davies, Stephen Curtis, David Bowman, Peta Mills, Janice Withey, Lukas Hayhurst, Sylvia Wightman, Michael Porter, Iris Mitchell, Harry Dawson, Peter Hayhurst, Gerald Callister and Wendy Heaton.

1. Welcome and Prayers:

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and then presided over the first part of Evening Worship.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies had been received from Claire Jones, Ann Curtis, Grace Hibbert, James Dale and Margaret Galloway.

3. Minutes of previous meeting: *(and matters arising therefrom)*

The chairman referred to the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2022 and asked if there were any corrections or omissions, and were a true record of the meeting. Gerry Callister proposed and Michael Porter seconded that they were. There was total agreement.

4. Reports from Sub-Committees:

Finance:

The treasurer referred to the report from the finance meeting, and to the summary of accounts, both of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He explained that the accounts to the 30th June 2022 showed an ordinary deficit of £1,751 compared with £2,366 for the four months to April 2022 which was an improvement. Collections were still below the levels received prior to the Covid pandemic, although the PCC is breaking even because of the quarterly income received from the Cregeen legacy investment. The committee recommended that the PCC agree to the Happy Valley Play School paying a reduced rent of £500 for the next three months. The treasurer raised a concern over cheques paid to the Disaster Emergency Ukraine appeal on behalf of the Parish amounting to £1,925 had not as yet been presented, and when questioned about the matter an IOM Bank representative said that the bank was waiting for all donations before paying the total amount received towards the appeal. Discussion followed, with much dissent, over the handling of this matter by the bank. The secretary suggested that he write a polite letter to the bank, on behalf of the PCC, about the delay in the payment of appeal funds to the Ukraine effort, especially as the collection raised by the parish was achieved on the understanding that the matter was urgent. ***Sylvia Wightman proposed and Gerald Callister seconded that a letter should be sent to the IOM Bank about it. There was unanimous agreement.*** Finally the treasurer stated that so far there had been no major work expenditure other than a £3,000 surveyor's fee to Guy Thompson in connection with the St Mary's reordering project, that two contactless devices are in operation in the parish for people who wish to give digitally, and that the PCC is expecting a legacy from the estate of Mr Stan Atkinson for the benefit of St Peter's Church. The amount in question is not known.

Worship:

The chairman reported that the committee had felt that the present pattern of services which included the joint service of the fourth Sunday of the month should remain. Concern was raised over the reduction in available organists. This might lead to some of the services being said. The use of CD's to aid the singing of hymns was not a preferred choice. The director of music is to seek new organists if at all possible. It was agreed that there will be a harvest service in each of our churches on 2nd October. Finally the director of music is considering the introduction of a new hymn book to be used for services at Kirk Christ and that a legacy, recently bequeathed to the church, would offset the cost.

Social:

Iris Mitchell referred to recent events including the quiz night, TT Café and the monthly Soup Inn, all of which have been successful and well attended. Some discussion followed about the events themselves. The next meeting of the social committee will be held on 3rd August at 11.30am in St Catherine's Church Hall.

Mission & Outreach:

The co-option of members to the committee was discussed with Wendy Heaton agreeing to join. A prayer day had been discussed in early 2020 but the matter was put on hold because of the pandemic. It was felt that this initiative was still needed and further discussion considered. The committee felt that prayer was important to the life and worship of the parish and as such a weekly prayer meeting, to be held at St Catherine's Church at 10am on Tuesdays, should be introduced.

Buildings:

Peter Hayhurst referred to the report which had been circulated. This was self-explanatory with no particular issues discussed other than the damp problem being exhibited at St Peter's Church. A number of suggestions as to how to alleviate the problem were raised. It is intended to further investigate the problem.

5. Progress on St Mary's Church:

The chairman referred to the project to refurbish St Mary's Church the plans of which had been submitted to the DAC in January 2020. These included the reordering of the interior of the west end of the church, and to erect an outbuilding in the north west corner of the church grounds to facilitate storage. The project was then put on hold as the PCC had agreed to the Happy Valley Play School renting the church hall. This in itself required a number of adaptations having to be made to the hall at considerable cost to enable young children to play and be safe in a suitable environment. This meant that toilet facilities for worshippers, and at church functions, were limited, especially as the hall had provided toilets for worshippers on Sundays. Consequently it was decided to add a disabled toilet to the original plans, which since being drawn included a number of adaptations. The toilet would be built adjacent to the left hand side of the porch on entering the church. Plans were again submitted to include the toilet. Because the toilet and the outbuilding are external additions the plans had to be submitted to civil planning. The outbuilding was accepted but the disabled toilet is still pending approval. Guy Thompson, Diocesan Surveyor, submitted the plans to two contractors and asked for tenders. These were: T.E. Leece & Sons Limited, and Daryl Blake Limited. These were returned to Mr Thompson who subsequently sent them to the Rev. Joe Heaton on 19th July 2022. They had been subdivided into tenders for the three projects. These were:

- Reordering the west end of St Mary's Church
- The installation of a W.C.
- The erection of a storage facility.

The costings from both contractors for each of the projects were very similar. The chairman added that the costs involved were considerably more than the estimates gained at the beginning of the process although the toilet at that time had not been considered. He also intimated that the PCC has funds available to pay for the project, and that he too favoured T.E. Leece of the two contractors, because the work he undertook with the reordering of Kirk Christ some time ago was exemplary. Those present agreed.

This prompted discussion from PCC members. The treasurer was very concerned about the cost of the toilets which, in his opinion, was exorbitant. A point was raised in connection with the Happy Valley Play School which has been struggling for members for some time. Should the play school continue to struggle to survive, and eventually close, the parish would be left with a hall, complete with toilets that could be used during church services and at other church functions. Another issue raised was the limited number of funerals/weddings that are held at St Mary's throughout a year. It was felt that in the main it would be at such functions that toilets would be required. The majority of comments made were not in favour of the toilets being installed at this stage. There was more discussion which led to the following proposal:

Michael Porter proposed and Sylvia Wightman seconded that the plans should go ahead with the reordering of the west end of St Mary's Church, and the erection of the storage facility only. Six members were in favour, two against with seven abstentions.

In view of there being no outright decision a second proposal was made:

Wendy Heaton proposed and David Bowman seconded that the plans should go ahead with the reordering of the west end of St Mary's Church, the erection of the storage facility, and the plans to install a disabled toilet in the porch be revisited at another point in the future. The vote taken showed that everyone was in favour.

The chairman suggested that this matter of the installation of a disabled toilet be revisited annually which was agreed by all. He also stated that the faculty to reorder the west end of St Mary's Church, and the erection of a storage facility in the north west corner of the church grounds should now be able to go ahead. Everyone was in agreement.

6. Vision Focus Group: (Proposed PCC away day)

The chairman referred to the day of prayer and discussion held at Thie dy Vea (retreat centre) on 5th April 2022 for members of the Vision Focus Group. This had been very successful with 'Seven Marks of a Healthy Church' by Rob Warren being the focus of discussion. In view of its success the chairman felt that an away-day at the retreat centre would be advantageous in discussing the way forward for our own parish. Discussion followed with the date of 8th October being pencilled in at the centre. **The chairman proposed and Stephen Curtis seconded that the PCC should attend an away-day at Thie dy Vea on Saturday 8th October 2022. There was unanimous agreement.** The chairman was keen to ensure that a complement of approximately 24 church members including the PCC, readers, and people with responsibility, attend should space allow.

7. Safeguarding Matters:

The chairman reminded everyone of their responsibility to attend a safeguarding course. He explained that Voirrey Baugh was our safeguarding officer and will be contacting people if safeguarding is needed or needs to be renewed. He explained that the training has been simplified for those requiring the basic awareness course, which now can be covered on line. The foundation level covers those who are working with children.

8. Eco Church:

Peter Hayhurst gave an update on the position for our diocese and its intention to have net zero emissions by 2030. Some conversation followed with regard to our boilers and their low rating, and the cost of oil at present which was proving to be very expensive.

9. Correspondence:

The chairman referred to an email received from John Kearsley tendering his resignation from the PCC. The chairman also showed some concern over there being three vacancies for PCC members and intended to advertise this fact in the Rushen News.

10. Any Other Business:

Gerald Callister referred to the chalice to be purchased in memory of Arthur Cregeen. The chairman responded by stating that he has some pictures which he will share with the Kirk Christ congregation so that a final decision can be made. He also mentioned that a gift of a picture and some Amazon vouchers were presented to Claire Jennings for her work at parish administrator.

11. Confidentiality:

No items discussed were considered to be confidential.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm with the conclusion of the Evening Prayer Service led by the chairman at 7pm.

Signed: _____

Rev. Joe Heaton
20th September 2022