

# Minutes of the Meeting of St. James P.C.C.

## Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**Present:** Rev Rob Powell (Chair), Rev Johan Allen, Joan Botterill, Carol Burt, John Farebrother, Liz Gibbons, Antony Herbert, Steve Linton, Richard Reddie, Stephanie Sulaiman, Paula Thomas, Glynis Wilkinson, Simon James-Morse.

**Apologies:** Judy Douglas, Dave Ingram, Lilian Reddie, Myles Taylor, Julie White.

**In Attendance:** Christopher Guest and Fio Adamson, for item 4, 'Furzedown Oak Project'.

1. **Welcome:** Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting, led a short reflection based on Philippians 1:3-6, and the meeting began with prayer.

### 2. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings:**

The Minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October were considered, accepted unanimously and signed.

### 3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

1. **Legacy Policy** (item 5.3). Rob reported that the Legacy Brochure was still being compiled, but should be completed and available in January 2015.
2. **Children's and Families Worker** (item 6). Rob reported that a response was awaited from the Diocese regarding funding for the post.
3. **Furzedown Youth Centre** (item 7). Carol reported that the recent FYC AGM had passed the resolution to change the FYC Constitution to include St Paul's Church.
4. **Disability Access** (item 9.1). Rob reported that, following advice received from the Diocese, this item would be deferred until the appointment of a new Church Architect.
5. **Mission Partners** (item 3.3). Joan reported that Christmas cards had been sent to mission partners.

### 4. **Furzedown Oak Project**

Fio and Christopher provided details of the Project, specifically the proposal of a 'sculpture trail' through Furzedown, using wood from an oak tree that came down in Furzedown Rec. The planning team were now working at various sites, which would hopefully include a sculpture next to St James' war memorial. A model of the proposed sculpture was presented to the meeting, a design that incorporated suggestions from various community groups. A draft budget was also presented, with funding being sought from several sources including the Art Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was hoped that work on the monument would begin in April 2015.

The meeting discussed the proposal, raising various concerns, including:

- There was uncertainty as regards who would formal own the sculpture and who would therefore be responsible for its ongoing upkeep and maintenance.
- There were reservations regarding the proposed siting of sculpture at the rear of the Green, with concerns that the proposal seemed overly large. It was noted that the proposed location would be on the Hall fire exit route and would inappropriately dominate the space.
- The permanent nature of the design could hinder any future redevelopment of the church property.

Christopher invited a representative from the PCC to join a 'steering group' to oversee and monitor the project. At this point Fio and Christopher left the meeting.

Upon resumption, the meeting discussed the project further, concluding that the proposal was too large, elaborate and costly. Furthermore, there were significant concerns regarding the location, the ownership and the provision of ongoing maintenance. It was **agreed** to convey these concerns to Christopher and Fio.

### 5. **Finance Report**

1. **Management Accounts.** Paula presented the Management Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, showing a *deficit* for the period of £13,262. Although a budget deficit of £9,660 had been forecast, the results showed a negative variance of £3,602. However, with Advent Gift Day appeal, the forecasted results for the year were a break-even position.

2. **Budget 2015.** Paula presented a draft 2015 Budget, reflecting a modest 2% increase in donations. A more significant increase in property income was included, primarily from a new regular hall hire from church group on Saturday evenings. Expenditure had been reviewed and carefully calculated.
3. **Staff Salaries.** Simon and Glynis left the meeting for this item.  
The PCC discussed a 2% salary increase for the Church Manager and an increase to £9.15 per hour (the London Living Wage) for the Administrative Assistant and Church Cleaner.

**Proposal: to increase the salary levels, as discussed, all from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.**

Proposed by Paula, Seconded by Johan Allen, agreed carried unanimously.

4. **Auction of Promises.** Details of the amount raised would be made available at the next PCC meeting.

Due to problems with the heating, the remaining items on the Agenda were deferred to the next PCC meeting.

## **6. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

## **7. Date of Next Meetings**

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – APCM
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

The meeting closed with prayer, led by Joan, at 9:25pm.

Next PCC meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8:00pm in the Centre