



St Alfege

The Parish Church of Greenwich

**Parochial Church Council (PCC)
7.00 p.m. in the Church**

Minutes of the PCC meeting Wednesday 15 July 2009

Attendees

Chris Moody, Andrew Blundy (Chair), Richard Bancroft, Alan Bradley, John Greenacre, Sarah Lavery, Chris LeBreton, Tom McDonald, Nigel Perks, John Stanley, Kate Steer, Peter Rumsey

Apologies for Absence

Freda Cannon, Tim Delap, Sally Hughes, Peter Kinnison, Andrew Lewis, Chris Todhunter.

Minutes of PCC Meeting of 17 June

Submissions were made that the minutes did not fully reflect the discussions of the meeting with regard to the report by the Development Committee. It was also considered important that information from the report be reflected in the minutes.

It was agreed that this section of the minutes would be revised and the minutes would be submitted for approval at the next PCC meeting. **Action AB, SL and SH**

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Development Committee

The Committee is still in the process of arranging a meeting with Diocese, Archdeacon and the Surveyor.

The Development Committee is to be forwarded the revised minutes.

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Hall Committee

Frank Smith has announced that he will stand down as Chairman at the end of August. There is to be a “thank you” to him for his many years service in September – either within a Service or in the Hall.

Progress is being made in updating the hall – decoration, disabled ramp, electronic locks, health and safety and food preparation areas.

There are to be new letting agreements for the use of the Hall, locked into the Child Protection policy and with new rates for commercial users. These are £15 per hour Monday to Thursday, £25 per hour, Friday to Sunday. CM stated that the Wednesday market should be charged the community rate – which is half the commercial rate. The new rates may deter current Saturday users, but it is hoped that there will be increased letting opportunities during the period of the redevelopment of the Greenwich market.

The nursery is currently charged £2500 per annum – there is to be a meeting with the nursery provider to review this rate in line with commercial rates, but with a longer lease period. It was agreed that a valuer’s report advising on appropriate rentals should be obtained at a cost of £400 plus VAT. The report will provide figures for the nursery in its current state, as well as for upgraded accommodation.

NP advised he had contact who could provide rates for comparison.

It was noted that the Ofsted Report was clear that the nursery was solely responsible for the safety of its children where there is dual use of the Hall.

The Hall Committee report was accepted by the meeting, with appreciation of the progress being made in upgrading the facilities.

Church Administrator, Update on Keys, CRB Checks

- CRB Checks. There had been difficulty in chasing people to return CRB forms. Diocese will pay for CRB checks only for those working with children and vulnerable adults and there was discussion about how extensive the CRB checks needed to be. It was suggested that volunteers such as welcomers and open church workers should be made aware of the Child Protection policy and told that they may be required to be CRB checked.
- Church Administrator. Jenny Edmunds has completed her first six months of employment and she has been advised that all are extremely pleased with her progress. *[For remainder of paragraph, see confidential side minute.]*
- Key. The Administrator is compiling a list of all those with Church keys.

Capital Projects for 2012 and beyond

CM circulated ideas received following his presentation to the congregation three in June so that decisions could be made on the extent, priority and timescales for the items.

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- The altar frontal and soundproofing are not considered priorities and will not be adopted at this stage. The same decision was made for the suggestion of changes to shelves in pews though Tim Delap is to be asked to trial this.
Replacing the pew cushions will be part of the art project.
- The pulpit carvings will be left as they are – as a reminder of the restoration work that was done following the bomb damage.
- Disabled facilities are already under consideration and do not need to be included in these projects.
- Lighting behind the altar. There was a suggestion that this could also provide better lighting for the east end window - an earlier report from a lighting specialist suggests that this is not possible.
- Cleaning stonework at the east end and north east courtyard and restoring coping stone, railing, drums and the east end portico. The church was last cleaned in the 1970s and there is advice that it should not be done – the patina helps to display features. It was felt that there is a special case especially for the East end of the church as it is the part of the church most visible from Greenwich centre. As part of this work, the arch entrance at the east portico would be moved to the north east entrance – as it was originally. There was discussion of removal of a tree at the south east corner which is causing damage, but it was agreed that this discussion would be left for another meeting.
- Water fountains and a contemplative area in the grounds of the church. CM to consult with parks committee regarding moving the existing fountain. The fountain would not need a mains water supply. **Action CM**
- Mother and Child icon or statue for children’s chapel was agreed. This will provide a focus for visitors who wish to light a candle when visiting the church.
- Creation of St Alfege chapel in the old “shop” area of the church – inspiration from pilot art project repositioning of bookcases, new “see-through” screen, icon and candle stand. This project was considered the main one for the Millennium and PCC endorsed immediate action for Stage 2 (see following agenda item).
Reinstatement of former Lady Chapel area as is was prior to the church shop straight away.
- Opening of the Crypt to visitors was agreed. Details of the church in the crypt (if it is opened) rather than in the church.
- Replacing the grilles to the windows was added with the consent of the meeting.

The Art Project

CM presented a report on the Millennium Art Project Stage 2 for the research and development of designs for the St Alfege Chapel and for pew cushions. The estimate for this stage is £9000 and provides for researching materials, processes and designs, including workshops and consultation with designer, architect, fabricator and conservation experts and manufacturing samples.

The PCC agreed that it is essential that this remains a community project with community benefit.

The Millennium Committee has separate funding so this will not be paid from PCC funds.

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There will a fundraising exercise for this – such a project would be attractive to a number of organisations and the Livery companies will be approached.

Sunday School Report

SL reported that the Sunday School is continuing to thrive.

There are issues about security and use of a security radio was suggested. With the new security coded locks on the hall door, this should no longer be an issue.

KS queried how children's art work could be displayed now that blu-tack is no longer permitted to be used in the church. A free-standing display will probably be used.

SL queried how often there should be a Sunday School report to the PCC and it was agreed that 3 or 4 times a year would be sufficient.

Fabric Committee

- Electrical work – lights above and behind the altar being fixed and the south door is to be illuminated better for safety reasons.
- The Central Heating pumps have been sent for refurbishment. £1100.68 is the cost to date. A rough estimate for provision of new pumps is £2000.
- Whitechapel Foundry reported on adjusting ropes to make the bells easier to rings. Freda Cannon is to report back to PCC on this.

Treasurer's Report

RB reported that this was a difficult year, but situation is not critical. Income was lower than expected because funds on deposit are not earning much. Some investments in equities and charitable funds are returning 5 -6 % and although there are risks associated with investments, these risks are considered less than the risk of doing nothing with the funds on hand. This was endorsed by the meeting.

£30K is being spent on the Hall refurbishment.

There is planning and faculty approval for the telephone mast but nothing has been done yet. AB to follow up. **Action AB**

Any Other Business

- Meridian Money – was set up in 1990s as part of the *Faith in the City* initiative. It was suggested that someone from Meridian Money be invited to talk to the PCC about their work in the Autumn,
- Millennium Projects – there are other activities as well as the Art Project. It was suggested that there be a regular agenda item to update the PCC on all the Millennium projects.
- General Wolfe 250th Anniversary – A service has been booked in the Church diary. There will be a choral evensong and James Wolfe Primary School is to be invited. CLB to try to establish a link with Westerham churches for the event. **Action CLB**

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- Charity Registration – RB reminded all that signed declarations are needed from all PCC members to enable the registration application to be made.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.05pm