



Minutes of PCC Meeting
Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 19:30
On Zoom

Present: Howard Wright, Jonathan Rooke, David Duffin, David Craigen, Vicky Efstathiou, Janet Foster, Pip Hughes, Pam Maloney, Bob Meekums, Abi Mezzullo, Mike Saltmarsh, Howard Short, Jill Williams, Lorna Littlewood (guest), Jane Hughes (guest), David Williams (secretary).

1. Welcome & Apologies.

Howard welcomed the team to the fourth meeting of 2021.
Apologies were received from Andy Walters and Rich Gillard.

Action

2. Worship & Prayer

Howard read from Deuteronomy 31 – Moses handing over to Joshua as God does a New Thing, taking his people into the Promised Land. As we look to exit the pandemic and build relationship with St Andrews, we should be bold and courageous.

3. Declarations of (financial) Interest

None

4. PCC – 11th May 2021

a. Approval of Minutes: Agreed

b. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:

i. Publication of Minutes: it was **agreed** that a copy should be put on to web after Standing Team and PCC have had time to reflect and comment.

DW

5. Future Strategy Team Progress

a. Update: Lorna talked through the key points of the report *June PCC Strategy Team Update*. We should be encouraged that every aspect of church life had been appreciated by some respondents. The team is holding follow-up meetings with leaders of specific ministries (e.g. Worship). They are reviewing a list of events to examine why we run them, what might be dropped, what might be added.

b. COGS/The Kings Arms DNA Intern Proposal: 2021.
This was originally proposed to address the gap between needs in youth ministry and the available volunteers, and to invest in young role-models to our own youth. But this year Kings Arms-DNA have indicated no suitable candidate is available. PCC **agreed** to review in a year's time for October '22-'23. We thanked Lorna for her efforts in this regard.

6. Finance

a. Results Jan – June 2021 (doc: *PCC Summary Jan_June 2021*)

David C presented. He noted that there was significant expenditure to come on equipment to enable Live-Streaming of in-church activity.

PCC recognises that we do not have resources to duplicate all the effort of producing videos for online church while also restoring all the features of in-church worship.

Discussion followed on the need for PCC to agree in principle (and in advance of any financial commitment) to purchase substantial items of equipment to meet perceived needs. PCC should also agree firm budgets and set limits on spends that can be made without its approval. (See also PCC 11 May 2021 minute 9b).

Howard W was asked to prepare a **project proposal** to the PCC covering existing and anticipated future spend on all equipment for Live-Streaming.
David C was asked to **propose** a clear policy on authorisation thresholds for staff as regards spend, within and outside budget amounts.

HW

DC

b. Financial shortfall (doc: *Finance Discussion Paper July 2021*)

- Common Mission Fund – 2021 and 2022. It was **agreed** unanimously that we should fulfil our commitment to CMF for this year. We will review the financial situation in September/October but are unlikely to be able to increase our contribution in the following year. David C to convey this decision to Diocesan Board of Finance.
- Missions of the Month – We tithe income month by month to thirteen missions: £100 at the end of the relevant month, (£200 for Karamoja) adjusted at year-end when we know our annual income. It was noted that tithing itself is not sacrosanct, and that removing this tithe would solve our short-term deficit. However, a number of members voiced opposition to dropping tithing. It was **agreed** that we would maintain our practice for this year. By 9 votes, with 7 abstentions it was **agreed** to review our practice for 2022: meanwhile the Treasurer would draft a letter to all the missions forewarning them of the possible need to reduce if not cease the practice, due to the constraint on COGS financial resources.
- Intern proposal and reality – see item 5b

DC

Mission Team

DC

7. Diocesan Restructuring

a. Further contacts with St Andrews

Howard had conducted morning worship there on Sunday 4th July.

b. COGS discussion meeting, 12th July

Doubts had been expressed about the very need for Deanery reorganisation. Differences of approach to Finance had been raised.

The Church warden of St Andrews had been present. She conveyed the anxiety of some in the Medstead congregation that their church's thousand-year presence and traditions might be lost.

Howard reminded everyone that discussions were still at a preliminary stage and that no actual reorganisation was likely before Easter 2022. He continues to talk with the Area Dean and clergy across the area about the proposals.

8. Other Diocesan Matters

a. Diocesan Carbon Zero strategy (email circulated 05/06) – item deferred.

b. Protect Duty – item deferred.

c. Issues around Diocesan personnel – Members were urged to pray for the situation of continuing uncertainty in the Diocese while expecting further update soon.

9. Other Teams

a. Personnel: additional team member. – item deferred

b. Building: including Kitchen update. – item deferred

c. Ministry Leaders: update from meeting 6th July. – item deferred

d. Mission Team: Continuing to review the missions to which COGS sends gifts, and the sustainability of the tithing practice (see item 6b above) into 2022.

10. Safeguarding

Report received – doc. *Safeguarding update July 2021 PCC.pdf*

11. Health and Safety

Report received – doc. *H&S Report 08.07.07Rpt.pdf*

Janet and David Foster will conduct PAT testing of equipment which is due for renewed checking. It was noted that quinquennial survey is due in 2022, which will include the lightning conductor test.

JF

12. Any Other Business

Following HM Government's intention to relax all pandemic-related restrictions after 19th July, Howard is to circulate a paper to Standing Team about the way forward for opening up Sunday services. Once approved, an announcement is to be made during the morning service on Sunday 18th July about a roadmap into September.

HW

13. Dates of next meetings

7 Sept 2021 – may be delayed until we have a better understanding of who is returning after relaxation of pandemic restrictions.

9 Nov 2021

Howard closed the meeting at 9.30pm with prayer,
and with a reminder of the exhortation to "...be Bold and Courageous...".
