



PCC MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 26th September 2022

STATUS

Approved
15.10.2022
(Public)

Present	Rachel Ambler, Chris Brown, John Butler, Beth French, Lucy D’Orton Gibson, Mark Ellis, Mei Yen Furey, Danish Gill, Paul Langham, Janet Lee, Susannah Mason, Oni Milne, Cluff Noon, Di Noon, Mark Orriss, Mark Parsons, Dave Vernon, Sara Wadsworth, Chris Whitwell, Anna Wright
Apologies	Mike Innes
Minutes	Tavi Price

Ref	Item	Notes
A		Main Items
	Welcome	PL welcomed the meeting and explained that we would have 3 pauses in the meeting in which we would pray together. We all read 2 Chronicles 20 and then stood in prayer.
A1	CONFIDENTIAL ITEM	Item A1 is confidential and notes of the discussion have been removed from the public minutes here.
A2	Finance Paper 01 Supplementary Papers 1-6	<p>MP led this item and began by apologising to the PCC regarding how the finance item was handled at the July meeting – recognizing that not enough time was allocated to this item and discussion was consequently closed down. The thinking behind this was to prioritize and protect the time for the Big Agenda item - which at that meeting was <i>How do we develop a Culture of Generosity</i>. In order to give enough time for that item we decided to give all the finance information out at the meeting while leaving members the summer to digest and come back with questions in September. In hindsight this was unfair on the members and there should have been time set aside for questions that night.</p> <p>Consequently, this led to several emails being sent over the summer with one from JB raising concerns about the managing of Christ Church’s finances and imposing a deadline for answering specific questions and producing certain documentation. The Finance team did commit to meeting this deadline but before the deadline had passed JB had already escalated his concerns to the diocese. MP shared that he felt this had been unfair and that he has always been transparent with the finances and that the correct processes and procedures are in place. Patrick Bolster, an ex auditor, on the Finance Team takes a particular care and interest that these are adhered to. MP encouraged members with particular concerns or interest to come and speak to him and see the processes and procedures for themselves.</p> <p>CN: expressed his thanks to the Finance Team who do an amazing job without a treasurer in place.</p> <p>LDG: expressed that the personal cost of what happened over the summer was significant to her. Expressing her comment directly to JB, she stated that it was not an appropriate way to treat each other as members of a PCC and we can do better.</p>

In terms of the escalation, Archdeacon Neil Warwick is currently on holiday but that they didn't think he was planning to escalate it further. PL asked if JB felt satisfied that he might feel called to de-escalate but would leave that with him. JB wished to respond to the comments made but was prevented from doing so.

MP then continued with the item, asking if there were any questions on the papers circulated in advance:

MP was asked about rental income reduction. He responded saying this was due to the absence of rent from Linden Gate top floor flat and Mama Bears Day Nursery.

MP explained that the aim of the discussion was for the PCC to guide the Finance Team in making decisions to rebuild reserves at the end of 2022 and set the budget for 2023.

The following questions were posed and the meeting split into small groups to discuss, with one group dedicating the time to pray to listen to what God is saying and for Him to partner with us in these decisions.

1. Do you agree with the Finance Team that we should not allow our General Fund reserves to fall below £100k at year end?
2. If so, how should we proportion the impact of freezing some grant payments to mission partners, freezing some parish share, or raising additional income through a one-off Gift Day to achieve this?
3. What other significant options could be considered?
4. In seeking a balanced budget for 2023 – what weight would you put on the five different levers listed in Paper 01? (see below)

On the expenditure side, we can reduce:

1. *our Parish Share pledge*
2. *our grant payments to mission partners*
3. *our employed staff costs*

On the income side we can seek to

4. *raise new and/or increased giving from the Church Family*
5. *raise income from renting our properties and church building*

5. What other significant options could be considered?

General Feedback from the small groups:

1. Yes - agreed reserves shouldn't fall below £100k.
2. A combination of all 3 may need to be considered with the majority feeling the parish share could be frozen with one suggestion of giving it once or if we receive the proceeds from the sale of Oakfield Road. The idea of a gift day was also seen as a must but with clear communication as to why we are asking (i.e., not due to mismanagement of funds). Help people connect to what the money is / will be used for.
3. Interest free loans from the church family to cover deficit
4. It was agreed that getting more money in rather than cutting budgets, especially from mission partners, should be the main focus.
5. A rent review would be welcomed
6. Approach the community of Clifton – need to make them aware of what we are doing

Feedback from the prayer group:

- Overriding feeling was a real sense of peace and a complete absence of fear for the finance situation
- Psalm 145
- Collective feeling about local mission
- The hymn *Great is thy Faithfulness* – the sense that God will be faithful, and we need to trust.

		<p>The budget for next year will come back to the November meeting with some proposals/options driven by some of the discussions held tonight. A gift day/pledging for next year will also be decided by the Finance Team shortly.</p> <p>PL gave thanks to the PCC member who suggested using the lever of prayer and reminded us that it is one we can all pull on a regular basis. We need to pray for a new treasurer and let us not forget that we are meeting in the name of a God who can do extraordinary things.</p>
	B	Standing Items
B1	Apologies	Apologies were received at the start of the meeting and noted above.
B2	Minutes Paper 02	Minutes of the last meeting on the 18 th July 2022 were approved.
B3	Review of PCC Action Tracker Paper 03	The meeting agreed to defer this item and to revisit it at the next meeting.
B4	Subgroups Update	<p>MP gave a brief update on the membership of some of the subgroups.</p> <p>Finance Team– Still seeking a treasurer – LDG (chair), & members SK, LDG, MP, DV (from PCC) plus Patrick Bolster and Annabel Reed</p> <p>Building Team – John Buckland (chair), Kamran Zahid, Nick Price & Mark Orriss The meeting took a vote to confirm John Buckland as chair for this team and the vote was unanimous</p> <p>Personnel Team – MP, ME (chair), SW with MYF to be co-opted for the foreseeable future</p> <p>Risk Management – this group is not up and running yet.</p>
B5	Leadership Team’s Points	Olivia Baker, office administrator and communications manager in the church office has given notice that she will be resigning at the end of year.
B6	Warden’s points	None raised.
B7	Safeguarding Update	Thank you for continuing to do your DBS checks and do not forget the training!
B8	Review of the meeting / actions / confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It worked well • Valued the various times of prayers • One of the most genuine meetings • Confidential point removed here • Communicating the financial situation to the church family
		<p>Next meeting: Saturday 15th October 2022</p> <p>PL mentioned that it would be good if this could be extended if possible.</p> <p>The meeting closed in prayer</p>

Future Meetings:

Saturday 15th October, Monday 21st November, Monday 12th December (Social)