

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas Church Shepperton

Virtually on Zoom on 22nd February 2021 at 8:30pm

Present All PCC members were present

Chair Janice Wetherell

Following the S11 meeting to formally advertise the vacancy for incumbent

1. Apologies

None.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

The Parish Lent sheet was now on the parish website and would be in the Shepperton News shortly.

Janice said that she and John were very grateful to Sue Wood for preparing the Ash Wednesday service and to Sally Passingham for putting it on the website.

The Bishop is still planning to meet candidates face to face and would like to move on with the vacancy before the end of February.

2. Safeguarding

Guy reported a problem with his training. He did not agree with some of the answers which were nuanced. There were no other issues.

3. Financial report (Kathy)

There had been a 13% drop in stewardship. This was not due to the pandemic as the age of congregation meant that most were not in employment. However we had lost some generous givers who had not been replaced. Donations have held up well. Property income was up as the rent for the Village Hall which was leased to Spelthorne Borough Council was permitted to double every 25 years and there were arrears. Shepperton News was now in profit due to a change in the printers. Utilities were down as we had received a refund at the end of last year. This may happen again this year. The sequestration fund consisted of fees from weddings and funerals. The treatment of these was different during the interregnum and was set off against other expenses that the diocese pays. The reduction in our contribution to the Common Fund should improve the parish finances and help us to use Mission and Ministry fund for its intended purpose. The Finance group was to meet on 1st March to discuss more imaginative approaches to finances. In answer to questions over utility bills, John responded that Parish Centre pays for all of the Gas, but Church pays for Insurance. As these bills were joint for the whole complex, it was very difficult to split so this method was chosen as an equitable means of apportioning costs. Kathy explained that the Mission and Ministry fund was

the balance of legacy money. It was not restricted but earlier PCCs had agreed that it was intended for additional projects and not the day to day running of the Church. The Administrator was paid from it. However, in practice it had been used to fund the deficit in the General fund as there was no other means of meeting expenditure. Janice **proposed that the PCC thank Kathy and approve the financial report.** This was Seconded by Maggie and **agreed nem con.**

4. Interregnum: an update

Deanery policy was that we should be moving towards opening churches for Mothering Sunday with the same restrictions in place as in November. Not all members agreed and after discussion, Janice **proposed that we review at next PCC on 22nd March.** 14 voted in favour with 1 abstention and the motion was carried.

5. Revision of the Electoral role. Doris Neville-Davies

Doris wanted the formal notice put in the Shepperton News as parishioners will not see this notice which was in the church porch Details had been put in the weekly notices but not the formal notice. Doris wanted the following timeline - two weeks for the notice to be displayed followed by three instead of the normal two weeks for revision of the list. There would then be a further three weeks from the end of the revision until the APCM.

6. Correspondence

There had been two recent burials in the cemetery. There was no plan of the new burial ground and no list of faculties for people before the cemetery was closed in 1989. Doris has now drawn up a plan. There are thought to be around 8 people who have bought the right to be buried. However, no list exists. Advice had been sought from the Diocese who had suggested that an area is identified for new burials and that we invite those with faculties to come forward and register claims. This would go in notices and in Shepperton News. There was plenty of space for burials, but we needed to know where the plots are.

7. Churchwardens' Notices

There were none.

8. AOB (Previously Notified to the Chair)

- A. Hilary advised that the new rug in church should be properly secured as it represented a possible trip hazard. Hilary also reported Julia's delivery of service sheets to 18 people. And asked if there were any further people who would need it and if we had any volunteers to deliver them?
- B. Simon reported that the Alternative Worship Group wanted to do a further event on Easter Saturday if they could work out something compliant with COVID regulations. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the PCC on 22nd March.

The meeting concluded with the saying of The Grace.

**Date of next Standing Committee: Monday 8th March 2021 @
7:30pm by Zoom**

**Date of next PCC meeting Monday 22nd March 2021 @ 8:pm by
Zoom**

Mark Steptoe
Minutes Secretary