

Church of St Mary, Sarnesfield

PCC Meeting minutes

Thursday July 17th 2008, at The Vicarage, Weobley

Present: Rev'd Bob King, Revd Lynn Money, Mr Roger Marshall, Mrs Hilary Havard, Mrs Anita Bright, Mrs Anne Morton, Dr Rebekah Cutler, and Charles Prosser.

Apologies: Mrs Joanna Bright, Mr Henry Verwey, Mrs Brenda Havard, Mr Jim Minton, Mrs Viv Leech.

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The meeting opened with a moment of reflection, accompanied by Neil Diamond's *Pretty Amazing Grace*.

Minutes of the Last PCC Meeting (April 17th 2008): The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Reverend King (BK) pointed out that the minutes for the Vestry Meeting and APCM should be recorded as two documents and not one, and that the minutes of the APCM presented at next year's APCM.

Treasurer's Report: Viv Leech (VL) sent a summary of the PCC's current financial position for the meeting. The TSB current Acc't balance at 30.05.08 was £986, the CBF Deposit Acc't has £19,747 in it and the CBF John Abel Fund has £489 in it. The next share payment of £597 is due on 31.07.08. [This is the 3rd of 4 payments.] The June Cake Stall raised £285 and with a kind, last minute donation, £300 was banked.

Secretary's Report: There were no administrative matters to report.

Fabric Report:

Roadside Fence: Roger Marshall (RM) reported that he was awaiting a reply from insurers Ecclesiastical having submitted two estimates for repairs to the fence. There was a open conversation about the speed at which traffic passes and it was agreed that the secretary should write to the Parish Council to point out that this was the third accident at this site in perhaps the last five years and to ask whether traffic management could be considered and discussed with the Highways Department.

BK advised the meeting that he'd received a phone call from Wendy Fenn, Jim Minton's daughter, advising how disappointed she was by the state of the roadside gate and pathway. RM acknowledged that this area of the churchyard is looking untidy but it was hoped that work could begin soon on repairing the fence (once the insurers agreed) and that this would trigger the tidying of this area.

The effective permanent closing of the small layby, gateway and path was also discussed, and considered desirable for reasons of safety. RM advised the meeting that he is investigating the possibility of creating a permanent car parking facility adjacent to the church on Sarnesfield Estate land, and while not easy to deliver, if this could be agreed and developed that would then be the time to consider closing this access and setting up signage directing visitors to a new, safer facility. *[On the matter of ownership,*

the layby is not included on the Sarnesfield Estate registered title map HE30921- thus the layby is either the property of the church or the Highways Authority.]

It was agreed not to introduce a new church sign as it was believed that Fred Powell had designed and gifted the existing, undamaged sign to the PCC. It was also agreed that the secretary should write to the Diocesan Office seeking advice on closing access points to the churchyard.

Lighting/Heating: RM advised the meeting that there had been no further progress as Winston Vaughan was proving elusive. BK recommended speaking to the Diocesan Office's favoured contractor: Richard (Peter?) Craig. RM to approach Stephen Challenger at the DO for advice.

Expenses form: RM presented a draft form which was circulated and discussed. With the help of Rev'd Lynn Money (LM) a number of amendments, including the need for receipts to be presented, were noted and RM agreed to bring a revised form to the next meeting.

Harvest Festival: the HF is set for 11am on Sunday October 12th and will be in the church. There was some anecdotal reporting that this might be a better time than the Friday evening service that has been the norm for some years past.

The PCC will provide cider and cordials, and it was hoped that the 'bring a plate of food' tradition could be continued. This should be publicised informally among regulars, and through RM's newsletter. BK would ask Martin Loveless if he would care to preach; if not he would preach the sermon himself.

Fundraising:

- Cake stalls on September 11th and December 4th have been agreed.
- The HHCT Ride and Stride event is scheduled for Sat September 13th and Richard Putland has kindly agreed to demonstrate in the church how the altar, choir stalls, lectern, etc can be correctly polished with a view to best preserving them. It is hoped a work-party might be attracted for this activity.
- The Weobley & Staunton Group Croquet challenge is to be hosted by Byford at Garnons this year on Sunday September 7th.

Any Other Business:

- The Family Service on September 28th is now scheduled for 3pm as, quite possibly for the first time in 1,000 years, the church will be the venue for christening of triplets – Hilary Havard explained that regular congregants would be very welcome to this christening of Janet Thomas's young daughters, Grace, Emily and Alice.

Date of the next meeting:

The date of the next meeting is set for Thursday 23rd October 2008 at 9.30am at The Vicarage, Weobley.