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WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 08 January 2024 at St. Leonard's Church at 7.30 PM.

Present: Tim Pullen (TP) (Chair), Mike Smith (MS) (Vice Chair), Erica Bailey (EB), Carol Barber (CB), Roger Howes (RH), Lindy Jones (LJ), Roger Owen (RO), Lisa Smith (LS), Sally Smith (SS), Val Sutton (VS), Noreen Thomas (NT), Elaine Thompson (ETH), Emma Twissell (ET).

Apologies: Gill Moore (GM), Penny Ball (PB), Matt Green (MG) and Kevin Twissell (KT).

Minutes: Carol Barber

- P01/24 Opening Prayer.**
The meeting opened with a prayer and Dwelling in the Word.
- P02/24 Apologies and declaration of conflicts of interests.**
The apologies were noted.
There were no declaration of interests.
- P03/24 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 13 November 2023.**
These minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to a minor typographical correction.
- P04/24 Minutes of the SCART meeting held on 11 December 2023 (unconfirmed)**
These minutes were received for information.
- P05/24 Matters arising from the PCC minutes.**
There has been a response re the work at The Rectory and Martin Cooper from the Diocese had confirmed that only some of the windows at the Rectory could be replaced and Martin will take up the issue of the hedges with the Arch Deacon – Mike Smith to follow up.
- P06/24 Matters arising from the SLCCW minutes.**
It was confirmed that work is being undertaken at the centre to audit and action items stored by the various group. This will be ongoing hoping to conclude by April 2024.
Carol Barber to follow up.
- P07/24 Notification of items to be raised under Correspondence or Any Other Business.**
Correspondence:
AOB:
- Val instigated a discussion concerning youngsters joining the choir and the possibility of Andy helping Peter our organist. This was deferred due to time constraints. **Item for the next PCC meeting.**

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P08/24 Families and Children Report

We now have more helpers running two groups every month. The school resources have massively changed in leadership and there have been lots of issues, we no longer run wrap around care but offer an enrichment session after school once a week 'Smilers' our acronym to well being. We are still connecting with children and parents. We have 4 helpers but still needing more volunteers. Our school coffee morning is building relationships. We ran the Christmas experience for schools, thank you to Santa and our team of volunteers who supported. We ran a Christmas disco for the toddlers where 65 children and 40 adults attended. Our challenges are to pray for the ever changing leadership at Firbeck and the change of staff and to pray for the parents. Discipleship pathways – we have a gap when children are moving up to senior school and we do not have a provision for this age group. We are encouraging children to be part of the service in different ways. Lindy suggested that each of us could support one child.

1 Corinthians 3: Everything we do utterly depends on God, we can plant and water and it will be God who makes it grow, God will help us to grow.

P09/24 Finance – Raising Finance.

Every year what we spend is a lot more than our giving to the tune of 25% of our regular giving. We will have costs associated with future projects e.g. heating and Lindy's post is not presently paid out of our pot which will require significant resource.

Mike gave an overview of the paper he sent out re Raising Funds at St Leonard's. Mike suggested an increase of 25% just to cover the basic cost of the church.

We can all play our part in reminding people about giving and this should be shared with our congregation. Ideas from Mike were a slot each week about giving, giving time, volunteering time and helping in different ways.

We believe there are also opportunities outside church to involve others, legacies, one off gifts, and Friends of St Leonard's.

Val pointed out that any one of us should be happy to stand in Church and share with the congregation along with scripture and leadership/preacher.

The preliminary statement:

"The PCC recognise that St Leonard's finances have for some years operated with a significant deficit. An increase – 20% in our planned giving together with other fundraising initiatives, is needed now to avoid a detrimental impact on the church's core mission and activities. The PCC have discussed and prayerfully committed to review their own giving and now ask all members of St Leonard's to prayerfully consider whether they can increase their financial support for the church"

This is to be shared at services and in the news sheet simultaneously.

Mike suggested a committee be put together for forward the other ideas and SCART will take this forward.

Proposed by Mike Smith (Vice Chair)

Seconded by Val Sutton.

For: Unanimous

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- P10/24 Fabric**
Roger discussed the bell chamber and general deterioration.
It is recommended that PCC approve stonework repairs of up to £1000 to the bell chamber to be undertaken at the same time as other stonework repairs as approved at the November PCC (P107/23).
Proposed by Roger Howes
Seconded by Emma Twissell

Water leakage down the interior west end wall of the church has been attended to with sealant. There is damp in the north isle and part of the matting has had to come up to let the floor breathe. Sealant has come out with the rain and this will need to be renewed.

The matting will remain up for now until the weather changes. It was suggested that a removable rug would allow the floor to breathe and would work as well for the children. The main doors from the vestries need updating to meet regulations. Tim suggested that we need to find out about the legal situation and then get more quotes – **Roger will follow up.**

Door to tower staircase rotten but not urgent – **Action in the Spring**

- P11/24 Safeguarding – Ratification of Lead Reviewer arrangements.**
To enable us to retain Rachel Higgins as a Safeguarding Officer it was proposed that Natasha takes on the role of 'Lead Recruiter'.
Proposed by Tim Pullen
For: Unanimous

Action/checklist Grid updated by Mike Smith

- P12/24 Electoral Roll.**
The Electoral Roll figure currently stands at 281.

- P13/24 Diocesan Synod Report**
Roger gave an overview of 'Prayers of Love and Faith' referring to the Church of England release. – same sex blessings, Clergy can now offer prayers to same sex couples in services.
Views are becoming very polarised with strong views on each side and it feels unlikely they will meet in the middle.
Tim explained to the PCC that it is not clear as yet and we will need to meet together to take these discussions forward. Our pastoral principles will be held at the centre of any discussions we will have.

- P14/24 Correspondence.**
None.

- P15/24 AOB**
The Diocesan contribution was confirmed for 2024 at £120,943 equal to £10,078.59p.m. It was agreed that we would pay this amount.
Proposed Tim Pullen
For: Unanimous

- P16/24 PCC Away Day**

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Will be Saturday 24th February 2024 – St Helen’s Stapleford will be explored.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next PCC meeting: 11 March 2024 @ 7.30pm.

SIGNED.....DATE.....