



## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parochial Church Council of Ashford Town Parish held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington at 9.30am.

### PRESENT:

Mrs Sally Lees (Chairman)	Ken Blanshard	Eve Lanchantin-Piggott
Shirley Leslie (Treasurer)	Gavin Williams	Jerry Fox
Phil Sibbald	Cathie Aldis-Saunders	Karen Hardie
Richard Houghton	Paul Needham	Andrew Brown
Ian Rich	Caroline Mansley	Morag Sharp
Lesley Wraxall	Anita Sorrell	Dawn Stamper
Bruce Watson	Derek Goodwin	Sue Sawyer (minutes)
Arthur Waters	Michael Piggott	Caroline Mansley

### 1 Welcome & Opening Prayers

The Lay Chair, Mrs Sally Lees welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending this Extra PCC meeting and opened the meeting in prayer.

### 2 Apologies for absence

Lorraine Andrews  
Jane Appleton  
Libby Varley  
Alison Gunther  
James Beck  
Richard Bellamy  
Robert Sharp  
June Wenborn

### 3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Ian Rich proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Jerry Fox and carried unanimously and signed by the Chair.

### 4 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

None

**5 Election of 2 Lay Candidates for the Interview Panel for Team Rector**

Nominations:	Votes:
Sally Lees	17
Jerry Fox	18
Gavin Williams	8
Lyn Suddards	5

Therefore, Sally Lees and Jerry Fox are elected for the Interview Panel. They thanked the members for investing them with this responsibility.

**6 Review and Approval of work carried out by the Parish Profile Sub-Group**

The document, previously circulated, was based on the Group's meeting with Archdeacon Darren Miller.

The final version will have financial pages together with video links attached to the Church of England Pathways website.

Charlotte Coles proposed that the document be accepted, seconded by Richard Houghton and carried unanimously.

Jerry Fox introduced the proposed advertisement for the Church Times and after some discussion he proposed that the PCC delegate the work to finalise the advertisement to the Working Sub-Group.

Seconded by Derek Goodwin and carried unanimously.

Members were reminded that the Archdeacon will vet the content and, despite what is voted on today, he will have the final say on what is on the website.

**7 Church Times Advert**

Jerry Fox had researched Church Times costs:

£680.20 for 2 weeks or £741.84 until the position is filled with the opportunity to change the advert if necessary. All prices include VAT.

Three options were discussed:

- I. Church Times advert immediately
- II. Pathways followed by Church Times advert
- III. No Church Times advert

It was agreed that the Parish and Diocese logos must appear on the advert.

Richard Houghton proposed that the advert be placed in the Church Times and on Pathways as soon as legally possible.

Seconded by Derek Goodwin

Agreed	18
Against	1
Abstention	4

The PCC agreed that this would send a strong message that everything was being done to advertise the post as widely as possible.

The members felt very strongly that there should be 3 lay members of the Interview Panel and the panel must include someone who has experience of the Safer Recruitment Process.

The PCC will continue to push for the additional lay member and Caroline Mansley agreed to email the Archdeacon on this matter.

## **8 Budget Update**

Shirley Leslie explained that this was a very cautious budget. 2019 accounts were slightly better by £10,000 and were currently with the Auditor. This was partly due to cost elements being rigidly controlled and has been almost flat over the past 3 years. However, giving is also nearly flat over the same period.

Kingsnorth's Stewardship was very successful and they received £6,000 from Pightland with another £6,000 expected in 2020 but by 2021 they should be out of dependence on Pightland

Great Chart and St Mary's Ashford will have their Stewardship Campaigns in 2020.

Shirley cautioned that we cannot wait to rely on the new Team Rector to enthuse people to address the deficit and we still had quite a journey to go to become one parish. We are still quite parochial and we need people to buy into a vision and have to pray that vision will be one they want to buy into.

The Finance Strategy Group is looking at how we can address the shortfall. We can't wait and see but need concrete suggestions.

At a meeting with the Archdeacon and Julian Hills they pointed out that our average giving is a lot lower across the Diocese and this was a spiritual problem and we have to focus on generosity, cheerful giving, responding to God. The staff Team and the Strategy Group are to look at this.

The accounts will have to be approved electronically because there was insufficient time between the next PCC in March and the APCM in April to complete the process of signing off by PCC and Independent Examiner with 3 clear weeks for the accounts to be published publicly on Notice Boards ahead of the APCM.

The Chair thanked Shirley for her hard work.

## **9 Any other business**

- a) Tree cropping in St Mary Ashford churchyard by Ashford Borough Council was agreed unanimously.
- b) Authority to Assist for Karen Moore at Christchurch, including Home Communion was approved.
- c) Christchurch sound system is not working.
- d) Phil Sibbald will circulate the Diocesan coronavirus guidance

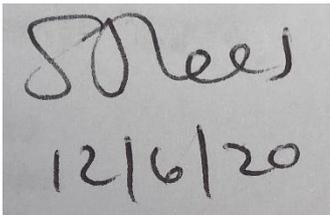
10 **Confidential Matters** - none

11 **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 26th March 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Kennington.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution and the meeting closed with prayer.

**Approved by the PCC by Email and Electronically signed by Lay Chair on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020**



S. Neel  
12/6/20