

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on July 7 2015

Present: Janet Mahto, Malcolm Wall, Alex Soboslay, David Rawlings (Chair), Sharon Rawlings, Judith Anderson, Margaret Burrows, Brenda Wall (Secretary), Angela Soboslay, Rowena Hall, Andrew Sillett, Judith Bishop, Matthew Jones.

Apologies from Ian Hay Davison, Morny Davison, Sarah Kerr.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting (19 May 2015) were accepted and signed.  
Matters arising:

a. Prayer lists. Should the long term prayer list be read out as part of the intercessions every week? Alex made the point that the list is quite long, it is published in the magazine and the immediate need for prayer is with the short term prayer list. It was suggested by Brenda, that maybe we should have a different voice to read the names on the prayer lists from the general intercessions. It was agreed that the short term prayer list is read with the intercessions every week, and the long term prayer list should be read every two weeks. Proposed David Rawlings, seconded Malcolm Wall. Accepted unanimously.

b. Monthly charities. Recommendations for our charity of the month in November will be discussed at the next meeting. Rowena emphasised close ties and a long term relationship with our charities along with prayer. Andrew outlined how the church in Bathampton has a long term project link. Andrew, Sharon and Rowena will identify three long term projects to be considered.

c. Bells. The financial appeal is within £3,000 of the target. See attached statement from Ian Hay Davison. [?]

One formal complaint about the bells has been received, via email, from a resident of Rivers Street. The Trustees and Standing Committee are formulating a procedure for responding. The Archdeacon has advised a meeting with the complainant to resolve by informal discussion. The complainant does not want to meet. Andrew is going to consult the Archdeacon again.

Another local resident complained about ringing before Evensong. This is the second complaint from this person.

Andrew asked for more clarification of the BANES noise tests. Alex explained that the measurements were taken from the pavement and the level of sound recorded with the shutters open is the equivalent of a vacuum cleaner. With the shutters closed the sound is at the same level as ambient traffic, and in fact lower than a passing loud vehicle (though of course that isn't continuous). He said it was very possible that sound levels would be higher if you lived in a second-storey flat facing the bell tower and had your windows open.

The meeting felt that we shouldn't just dismiss these complaints and wondered if changes in the weather or wind direction made any difference to volumes.

Matthew reported that additional ringing requests are coming in as the reputation of the bells spreads amongst the ringing fraternity. Caution was expressed, and a timetable approved.

Rowena made the point that anybody in the area who works night shifts might find the bells very disturbing.

Concern was expressed that the bells are becoming a big issue. Standing

Committee will keep a close watch and report back to Council.

d. Fire safety. The Trustees have arranged for the Mews and the Cottages to be inspected.

2. No Trustees report was received as the meeting was later in the same week.

3. Review of roles & responsibilities.

Malcolm suggested we need to be even more friendly, outgoing and welcoming, and should seek to involve even more people in activities. He said there were members of the congregation keen to get more involved in doing flowers to decorate the church and enhance our worship. After some discussion, the meeting agreed it would be useful for all interested parties to meet to discuss the best way forward. It was agreed that to ease the burden on volunteers we should provide a flower budget of £50 per month (proposed David, seconded Andrew).

Matthew thought that it was important to acknowledge the hard work of Angela Soboslay and the volunteers on the present flower rota and the meeting agreed.

In the same vein, Malcolm asked how we can enhance our hospitality and encourage people to come in. Janet made the point that when we do have events it is always the same people who help organise them. Judith Anderson asked whether we need to employ an administrator to coordinate and extend events and celebrations. There was some discussion about what kinds of activities we could put on. Brenda suggested a bring-and-share lunch. Janet mentioned that her apple picking party in aid of Genesis would now be taking place on Sunday 13 September. David requested that Angela, Judith B and the Hospitality Committee compile a list of our regular events and any proposals for further hospitality.

4. Recruitment of Publicity Coordinator.

Matthew reiterated that he and Sarah cannot continue to do all the work of publicity and would like to stand down from it. Andrew proposed a vote of thanks to Matthew and Sarah.

The job of publicity co-ordinator consists of keeping the outside notice boards up to date, big seasonal posters, production of postcards at Christmas and Easter, and liaising with the press and media. Matthew is happy to continue looking after the website.

The question was asked if the postcards at Easter and Christmas actually make a difference? Matthew said that he was in two minds about the cards: they arguably ensure that Christ Church is a presence to our neighbours twice a year, but just because something has been done in the past, doesn't mean it needs to go on. He felt that the posters, though, are vital. Matthew to make an appeal in church on Sunday.

5. Security at Sunday services.

Malcolm wondered, prompted by world events, if we should have somebody by the main door at the back of church during services, for security. Andrew proposed to do this on a regular basis as a duty to be shared among the sides people. Seconded by Janet. Malcolm proposed that the kitchen and the priest's vestry both be locked during the service.

Following an incident, there is also a concern about security at the Cedar Tree cafe

on Friday lunchtimes. Janet said she is in touch with the local Community Policeman about that issue.

#### 6. Reordering

There was nothing to report on the reordering of the church. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

#### 7. AOB

a. Events and functions. Judith Bishop outlined the next Toppings Book Events in September-October and mentioned a prestigious concert in the New Year. There was a question about this year's Harvest Festival, which was referred to Hospitality Committee.

We are applying for an alcohol licence.

Rowena made the point that we need to use the Lower Mews more to bring in money and new people. Perhaps a new Publicity Coordinator could come up with some ideas for promoting this further.

b. Spring clean. Judith suggested that now that work in the tower has been completed we should have our annual clean of the church. She felt that the gallery, which has been left very dusty as a result of the tower works, needs to be cleaned professionally, and that the cost should be met by the Bells Fund.

c. Ringers' security. Brenda asked that the bell ringers be reminded about security as the side entrance door (the "ringers' door") was left open last Sunday. Alex reported that we have asked the Archdeacon's permission to upgrade the locks on that door to improve security.

d. Fire safety. David suggested that we need to draft a formal Fire Safety Management Plan. To be taken up with the Trustees once the premises have been inspected.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 September at 19.40 in the Lower Mews.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21.30.