

Meeting Notes of Christ Church Council

Wednesday June 21st 2023 in Christ Church Mews

The meeting opened with prayer.

Present: Lore Chumbley (Chair), Jonathan Stead, Pauline Swaby Wallis, David Rawlings, Emma Elliott (Clerk), Lucy Humbert, Carol Hussey, Maggie Willans, Brenda Wall, Malcolm Wall, Sarah Jones.

Apologies: Judith Bishop, Morny Davidson.

1. Welcome

A general welcome to the meeting was extended. New members were welcomed and apologies for absence were noted. Members of the council who were present were invited to introduce themselves.

2. Elections

Lay Chair

Judith Bishop was elected as Lay Chair.

Proposed: David, seconded: Pauline.

Secretary

The role of council secretary will be divided. Emma Elliott agreed to take minutes at council meetings. Lore will undertake all other secretarial responsibilities.

Proposed: Brenda, seconded: Malcolm.

Treasurer

Zoe Bushell has recently been appointed as a trustee of Christ Church and will take on the role of treasurer for both the Trustees and the council. Zoe will give financial reports to council but will not attend council meetings.

Proposed: Jonathan, seconded: David.

A brief general overview of the church finances was given:

Funds in the plate, from planned-giving and from church events are directed to council.

Council is responsible for the upkeep of the church and Mews interior as well as bills.

Funds from rental properties and investments are directed to the Trustees.

Trustees are responsible for the fabric of the buildings and all wages.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted as a true record and signed.

Proposed: Brenda, seconded: Malcolm.

4. Matters Arising:

A report on cashless giving was circulated before the meeting.

| Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Total amount £ |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 101 | 140 | 180 | 290 | 15 | 726 |

June figure is low because the machine has not been working. It was suggested that the May total was probably boosted by a wedding. A query was raised whether the plate donations are lower because of the machine. Lore agreed to report back at the next meeting. **Action:** Lore

A question was raised about using the machine for taking donations for events such as cake sales, where the funds are to be paid to another organisation such as a charity. This has been looked at in detail by the Trustees and it is not possible, due to the church trust deed. Concerns were raised about accountability for cash donations to charity. Jonathan gave reassurance that charitable giving was strictly audited.

5. Minutes from the Trustees

These were circulated before the meeting. The Trustees have agreed to pay for blinds on the ground floor of the Lower Mews. These will be blackout blinds and will allow the room to be used for showing films. Thanks were proposed to the Trustees for funding the blinds.

6. Worship

Two services were particularly noted. The Pentecost service was felt to be a particularly uplifting service, and thanks were expressed to Kara for leading it.

Last Sunday's Windrush service was very well-received. It was good to be able extend a welcome and Pauline offered thanks to everyone involved. The Windrush service has been growing over the past five years and has been drawing in more people from various associated groups. A copy of the poem that was read during the service was requested. Windrush day is 22nd June and Fairfield House will have exhibitions open.

Emma reported that the Junior Choir is growing, which is good news. There are seven members now. From a practical point of view, this means we may need to look at expanding the seating capacity for the choir as a whole and recruitment to the choir generally remains an ongoing objective. It was suggested that the number of chairs and desks (currently 20) might ideally be extended to 24, to allow us to accommodate new members.

As well as new members of the Junior choir, we have other new youngsters in the congregation, which means that the Junior Church is growing. Recruiting more leaders and helpers would be desirable. Kara has agreed to help with this.

It was suggested that the service booklets that we use on Sundays could be reviewed and, if necessary, renewed. Sarah Jones agreed to be involved, as she has recently produced some versions for the children and has access to the required text.

7. West End Reordering

There have been no objections to the faculty application so we can go ahead and implement the plans. Lore proposed that a working group be formed, to put the plans into action. Brenda and David agreed to be part of this working group. Maggie will be doing the signwriting.

8 Time and Talents

Jonathan reported that the Time and Talents fundraising initiative had been very successful and had met its four objectives. These were celebrating our gifts; recognising the gifts of others; community outreach; and raising funds. The mini-fete raised over £1,000. There will be an interim total announced next week, once all the funds have been collected in. Half of the money will be given to the charity Mentoring Plus. The other half can be spent by the church for the benefit of the congregation. Jonathan expressed his thanks to Judith for her help with Time and Talents, and to all those who took part.

Lore asked for all members of council to consider what the funds could be used for.

Action: All

9. 225 celebrations

Church Open Day

This is scheduled to take place next Saturday (24th June). The church will be open and there will be refreshments and an organ recital given by David Wrigley.

Julian Road Community Event

This will take place in July and will be a Julian Road whole community event. The Museum of Bath at Work, St Mary's RC church and BEMSCA will all be involved. The museum will be open and there will be various activity in the church and car park. The Rainbow Steel Band will be playing.

Scratch Messiah

This has been postponed for the time being. David Winters intends to organise a series of concerts, including recorder and harpsichord, as well as possible further organ recitals and other musical events.

AOB

David asked whether the band had been booked for the Ceilidh, scheduled for later in the year. This is in-hand. The hospitality team and Kara are organising the event.

Pauline thanked the church on behalf of BEMSCA, our charity of the month, BEMSCA are celebrating their 30th Anniversary.

Next Meeting

Provisional dates for the next two meetings are Tuesday 25th July and Tuesday 19th September.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 20.25 pm.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Glossary | |
| BEMSCA | Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association |