

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
HELD ON Thursday 23 March 2023 in the Church Hall
The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m**

PRESENT:

The Rev'd George Rogers (Chairman)	Peter Clarke (Churchwarden)
John Pentlow (Deputy Churchwarden)	Tim Birse (Treasurer)
Gill Sinclair (Secretary)	Vanessa Dixon
Alan Hussey	Dave House
Lorna Kviat	Catherine King

1. Opening Prayer

The Chair greeted PCC members and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Amanda Turner	Sheila Anderson	Abi Hiscock
Pam Mercer	Helen Ogedemgbe	

3. Confirmation of PCC Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Standing Committee Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2023 were received and noted.

5. Matters Arising

Sunny Kids – It was noted from the Standing Committee Minutes that Sunny Kids had requested a vegetable patch in St Nicholas Garden and this was not thought to be a good idea. Vanessa asked what the reason for declining the request. Dave said that the earth in St Nicholas Garden is not good and there is a lot of brickwork etc under the grass. After discussion it was decided that JP had twenty containers that could be put into the garden and they could grow vegetables in them.

➤ **ACTION:** Tim would speak to Sunny Kids and let them know of our suggestion.

Lychgate Repairs – Tim said that we now have the 100 signatures required for the application and we have received over £300 in donations towards the £500 we need to raise. These donations have been received from people on Facebook. He is hoping that the congregation will also put some money towards the cost (would be approximately £3 each). The application will be put in by 1 April.

6. Youth Programme (including Young Saints and Tots)

Young Saints and Tots' reports were received. Catherine said that a further meeting is to be organised so that a further Meet & Munch for the young people can be arranged. There had been a cost to the church for the pizzas etc, and we need to discuss what our options are in supplying food etc. George said that the event was successful and we need to keep the momentum going. After discussion it was agreed that Catherine would get in touch with the youth worker at the Baptist Church who wishes to meet up with her to see if he can assist. We need to find a younger person to run it who has the enthusiasm to keep the younger people interested.

Catherine said that she would like to give a commemorative bookmark to the Young Saints to mark the King's coronation. Catherine will do some research, but in the meantime it was agreed in principle by the PCC.

7. Music Programme

There was no report.

8. Social & Fundraising

The report was received.

Wish List - Tim said that we have money available from the monies raised to purchase some altar cloths and small chairs for the children's corner. There is also enough money to purchase the small jug needed for the Eucharist as the handle has broken yet again. After discussion, it was agreed that these items could be purchased at a cost of approximately £600 - £700.

Proposed: Alan Hussey

Seconded: Catherine King

Quiz - The Quiz afternoon is going ahead and the advertising is in place. The tickets are now on sale and can be purchased after the 9.30 am Sunday Service.

May Queen - The May Queen / Cream Tea is going ahead on 16 May and tickets will be available shortly.

Community Walk - It has been suggested that Beating the Bounds and the Children's Society Walk be combined this year so that it can become a community event. It is hopeful that we can ask the Bishop and Mayor together with other community organisations to become involved, and in this way we could end up with a large event and more money raised for the charities.

9. Finance

The PCC Report and Financial Statements were received, having been circulated beforehand for anybody's comments and/or amendments. After discussion it was agreed that these could be signed by the Chairman and Churchwarden and presented at the APCM.

Proposed: Peter Clarke

Seconded: Vanessa Dixon

We also need to review the salaries for our staff for the period 1 April 2023 – 2024. This just involves Phoebe at present as Dave's review takes place by the Government at the beginning of the year, and Wendy's salary will be reviewed after she has worked with us for six months. It was proposed that Phoebe's salary be increased by 9%. After discussion this was agreed.

Proposed: Vanessa Dixon

Seconded: Lorna Kviat

10. Stewardship

There was no report. The annual review letter has been completed and is in church for collection by every electoral roll member this Sunday. Catherine said that following David Laker's sad death, Peter King has been approached to take over as Planned Giving Recorder. She would like to ensure that he receives support as this will be a new role for him and he needs to know that there is sufficient help. After discussion it was agreed that both Tim and Mike would meet with Peter to ensure that he knows what is required, and would be available to assist him as he settles into the role.

11. Property Management / Churchyard

The report was received.

12. **Outreach (Facebook, Website, Streaming)**
The report was received.
13. **Archives**
The report was received.
14. **Synod Reports**
The was no report.
15. **Overseas Links**
There was no report.
16. **Churches Together in Orpington**
The report was received.
17. **Foodbank**
The report was received.
18. **Safeguarding / DBS Disclosure**
The report was received. Gill advised that there are several changes to take place over the coming months regarding DBS checks, but Mike will report on this once he has received the Diocese update.
19. **Vicar's Notices**
The Armed Forces Day will take place on 25 June and at this service three new Standards will be presented (including a Canadian flag) and the Vimy Ridge Bell will be handed to us. There will be a service in church and then a lunch at the Royal British Legion.
20. **Any other urgent business**
Catherine asked if we will be having a Donkey for the Palm Sunday service. John said that unfortunately the people who we usually use have no transport, and he has exhausted all other avenues, so it is looking unlikely that a Donkey will be available this year.

As this is the last PCC Meeting that John will be attending as Deputy Churchwarden, George extended his thanks to John for stepping in and for his work during the past six months as Deputy Churchwarden.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm with the Grace.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE PCC
AT THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2023
AND SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN**