

The Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Mere
Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on
Thursday 15 April at 2pm via Zoom

1. Opening:

John opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Present:

Revd. Carol Green (Chair), Nigel Leek (Treasurer), Christine Marsh, Isabel Page, John Page, Julia Rankin, Nicky Ravenhill (notes), Lesley Traves, Richard Wilson, Elisabeth Barrett

Apologies:

Derek Fisher, Lindy Elliot

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 17 March 2021:

Subject to minor amendment to item 9 of previous minutes, last meeting minutes from 17 March 2021 were read as a true copy.

Proposed by Isabel and seconded by Christine.

All in favour.

4. Matters arising from the minutes if not covered in agenda:

None.

5. Finance Report:

a) Final 2019 accounts – examiner progress

2019 accounts had been voted to be accepted previously, and David Corbin is happy to examine - signed copy will shortly be available.

b) 2020 accounts – examiner progress

David Corbin is happy to examine 2020 - signed copy will shortly be available.

Money for Foodbank to be transferred asap so it can be used

Action: Nigel to arrange

Discussion was held about the historic restriction on the Assistant Curate's Fund.

Action: Carol to find out more from the Diocese.

Vote on accepting the 2020 accounts subject to the examiner completing his examination:

Proposed by Lesley, seconded by John Page

All in favour.

c) insurance – installation of security cameras

The insurance premium has more than doubled for the current year, however this could be reduced with the installation of security cameras.

Agreed: to obtain 2/3 quotations (to include from local suppliers) for cameras to the required specification by the insurers.

Action: Carol to follow up with Les and with the Clerk of the Town Council for knowledge of security companies and specification of cameras.

Proposed by Elisabeth, seconded by Isabel

All in favour.

6. Vacancy Process Update

The PCC discussed confidential matters in relation to the vacancy. A further meeting to be held on 24 April to discuss.

7. Other Reports for Comments and Questions:

- a) Building work progress report - possible future cleaning costs. How to be met?
To be discussed on Tuesdays meeting at the church – 20 April.
- b) Worship group report
Carol advised that she is preparing the minister's rota up to January – including the Lessons & Carols service.

8. Grove Building – Future Management Plans

Carol advised that the Grove Building website is now out of date and we are unable to update with current information. It is proposed to close this site with the intention that the new website by David Bell will then enable booking. In the meantime, enquiries to be directed to the St Michael's website with a spreadsheet kept as an interim measure. A new mobile will be required for contact.

Agreed: Six in favour, two abstentions

Agreed: Reforming the Grove Building Committee is something of a priority especially to assist in practical ways and to be re-visited following the election of new PCC members at the APCM.

9. New Officers for the PCC – Secretary, Treasurer, Planned Giving Officer
Not discussed.

10. APCM – 9 May 2021
Carol will announce at the next service that new members of the PCC are being sought.

11. Ramsbury Finance and Share Meeting for all the Deanery Treasurers
Discussion on amount of share to be paid this year. With events such as the fete and Christmas fair as well as more weddings this year, we can aspire to £39,000 share this year.

12. AOB

Elisabeth advised of the need to move forward with fixing the transfer onto the glass on the north door as an urgent issue due to safety concerns. It was agreed that a simple cross would be the best design – Elisabeth will choose a cross to photograph and send to committee for agreement.

Carol advised that the Chair of the Patient Participation Group at Mere Surgery had approached her about the potential for the Fives Court building being used as a Community Health Centre and seeking a letter of approval from the church. Carol has supplied this on behalf of the PCC as the site has good access for this use. The potential of the vicarage field being used for additional parking subject to Diocesan support was discussed.

Service on 12 May – Bishop Andrew is looking forward to visiting and agreed that due to Covid regulations, a more modest service and acknowledgement of Carol's last service with a larger celebration to be held around September time.

Bill has provided a list of possible people to invite, to include Flavia's daughter (Charles & Catherine Spencer). Sherry has kindly started to design the invitations.

13. Closing Prayers
Carol ended the meeting with grace.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 20 April, time 4.30pm. Meet in the church to discuss the removal of miscellaneous furniture, tidying, cleaning, etc

Signature

Date

