

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, GOSFORTH

'The Community of All Saints': living, thoughtful, caring faith'

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30 PM  
In the Church

**PRESENT:** Revd. Canon Andrew Shipton (chair), Revd Bev Davies, Paul Wilkinson, Christine Willoughby, Ros Place, Pam Taylor, Felicity Shoemith, Diana Lavin, Dorothy Henderson, Kath Davies, Karen Parkhouse, Fred Carr, Margaret Patterson, Edith Davison, Alison Wilson, Joe Vera Sanson, Marian Cave, Diane Kirkup, Revd. Ruth Birnie, Lesley Ogilvie, Alison Proudfoot, Nick Glover (secretary).

**Also present:** Charlie Mussett

**2020-05-01** **Opening Prayer and Welcome:** Welcome in particular to new members and opening prayer by Andrew.

**2020-05-02** **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Peter Brown, Claudia Newbegin, Nicky White, Katie Hogg, Ethel Randell..

**2020-05-03** **Minutes of the Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> September.**  
Approval of the minutes proposed by Kath Davies, seconded Diane Kirkup, unanimously agreed..

### Matters Arising

Item 11: The window is now satisfactorily completed, insurance money received and payment finalised.

### MAIN ITEMS

#### **2020-05-04** **Elections and Co-Options to the PCC**

- i) Vice Chair: one proposal, Peter Brown by Fred Carr, seconded Paul Wilkinson, agreed nem con.
- ii) Secretary: one proposal, Nick Glover, by Kath Davies, seconded Ros Place, agreed nem con.
- iii) Treasurer, a co-option, one proposal, Fred Carr, by Christine Willoughby, seconded Diane Kirkup, agreed nem con.
- iv) Safeguarding Officer: a co-option, Kath Davies agreed to continue, no vote required.
- v) Standing Committee reps. from PCC. Diana Lavin and Katie Hogg agreed to continue, no vote required.
- vi) PCC terms of office: 7 new members elected but one of these had to replace a resignation and so due to stand down in 2022. Lots were drawn and Margaret Patterson agreed to stand down in 2022.

Fred Carr explained to new members their role as trustees and Kath Davies stressed the need for DBS checks.

#### **2020-05-05** **Project Light in the Darkness December 2020**

Ros and Paul spoke to their paper and explained the rationale behind the project, wanting to present the Church as a light, at the centre of our community. It was a lighting scheme to highlight to the whole community how God brings light into our darkness at Christmas.

The new Lockdown proposals have raised great difficulties but they were keen for the essence of the project to continue. They believed that we can proceed but without the indoor element of the proposals, which would have included the music. An urgent meeting needed with the company involved to review costs but PCC approval needed. Ros therefore keen to hear opinions.

Charlie Mussett (Health and Safety) emphasised how very careful management on the ground will be vital, in whatever form it takes, especially in the current circumstances or else the Council will not allow it to go ahead.

Discussion followed. Andrew emphasised that it could be a true mission statement to the community.

Suggested that a reduced event could be a pilot for the fuller project again in the future with the limited scale probably highlighting the architectural features.

The feeling emerged that it should go ahead in some form. Andrew suggested that the PCC should be prepared to underwrite it for £2.5k; Ros felt it needed to be £5k. Fred Carr expressed concern about spending that sort of sum of money.

Discussion was optimistic about the prospects of raising funding from the congregation and the community.

It was therefore agreed to back the project, in principle and agree to underwrite it to the tune of £5k with an understanding of full efforts being made to raise funds. 19 were in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

**2020-05-06**

### **Christmas Programme**

Advent plans; discussion groups, Zoom carol service, concert on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Jamie Donaldson organising a "Follow the Star" trail, children based, leading to the crib scene in Church.

Other Zoom based Christmas ideas in discussion. There are plans for a project in which goods can be produced and sold in place of a Christmas fair.

20<sup>th</sup> December: Christingle

24<sup>th</sup>:: Crib service, followed by 3 small scale "Taste of Christmas" services, with the choir singing.

Christmas Day: normal service timings.

**2020-05-07**

### **Ratification of Annual Fees**

Fee proposals for 2021; reference to official fees that we are bound to accept. Suggested that we should make small increases to our fees covering the Church faculty fee, music and maintenance. Fred Carr proposed, Paul Wilkinson seconded that we should accept the proposals, agreed nem con.

**2020-05-08**

### **Mission of the Month Proposals, 2021.**

Suggested that we roll over the same charities from this year, in view of the limited giving this year in current circumstances.

Fred Carr raised the question of what level of guarantee we can provide, on a monthly basis; feels that the current level of 5% of unrestricted income is not sustainable.

Agreed that the principle of charitable giving is important so after discussion it was suggested that we reduce the guarantee to two and half per cent, maintain that for 3 months and review in March/April.

Dorothy Henderson proposed, Joe Vera Sanson seconded and agreed nem con.

Also agreed that we should try to be more proactive with each charity, trying to be more engaged with their work along with giving them financial support.

**2020-05-09**

### **Diocesan Budget Proposals for 2021**

Andrew outlined the ongoing problem that the Diocese has with budget and levels of parish share. A report for 2021 has been drawn up and the Diocese needs to know what level of share each parish is willing and able to give.

Discussion led to the proposal that we agree to option b) in the Diocese letter, being that "we work towards the same Parish share request in 2021 that was requested in 2020."

Proposed by Fred Carr, seconded Christine Willoughby, agreed nem con.

**2020-05-10**

### **Alterations to Lighting Bollards**

Paul Wilkinson referred to his paper, emphasising how the damage and repairs that the new bollards are receiving is not sustainable.

Question raised as to whether the new option would light the path adequately; also should we remove the bollards and return to the problem later.

Paul proposed, Lesley Ogilvie seconded that we proceed with the installation of the new recessed LED lights. Accepted nem con.

## STANDING ITEMS

- 2020-05-11 Finance**  
Fred reported on a reasonable year in which we should nearly break even. His concerns are focussed on the planned giving scheme which he would like to see increase and become broader based. He emphasised how he felt that this should be led by the PCC and that all PCC members should be part of the scheme.  
He reported on new contracts completed with Ladybird Nursery and other suppliers.
- 2020-05-11 Fabric**  
Relevant items already covered
- 2020-05-13 Update Reports**  
i) **Standing Committee:** not met since last meeting  
ii) **Safeguarding and Access:** Relevant items already covered  
iii) **Health and Safety:** Relevant items already covered.  
iv) **Deanery Synod:** has not met.
- 2020-05-14 Administrative Business**  
i) **Correspondence:** Letter received from Chris Jenkins in September, resigning from the PCC, pressure of other work.  
ii) **Alterations to the Electoral Roll:** none since the APCM.  
iii) **Late Items:** i) Andrew reported that Louise Waugh and Trish Malia are on furlough for November.  
ii) Ros Place reported on a grant received towards the cost of installing live-streaming in Church  
iv) **Date of Next Meeting.** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm, venue to be decided.
- 2020-05-15 Closing Prayer**  
Andrew closed the meeting with a prayer.