

**Minutes of the meeting of Lavenham Parochial Church Council held on
Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.00pm in Lavenham Village Hall**

Present: Rev Stephen Earl (Rector and Chair), David Deacon and Graham Patrick (Churchwardens)
Jane Balchin, Jonathan Boast, Justine Corney, Pam Evans, Mary Jackson, Paul MacLachlan, Clare Santer and Simon Wallis

Opening prayers

Rev Stephen Earl opened the meeting in prayer.

Lynda Sebbage was invited to make a presentation to the PCC about the Easter Art Trail. There will be a launch for local dignitaries at *The Angel* on 31 March. Art will be displayed in 37 shops from 31 March and there will be Art Trail maps to direct residents and visitors to the various locations. Each trail map will contain a voting slip so that winners in each section can be determined. The artwork will be displayed in the church over Easter and will be used as the theme for our Good Friday Service.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Burnford, Maureen Cowdroy, Anna Pitt, Pete Postle and Tim Rose

2 Items of urgent or unforeseen business received before the meeting

It was agreed to consider a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee under agenda item 7(ii).

3 Matters arising from prior meetings

- (a) It was agreed the minutes of the meeting dated 18 January 2017 be approved and signed.
- (b) To consider any matters arising:
 - 3(b) to advise letters of thanks from the Deanery Synod and a Reader in the St Edmund's Way Benefice;
 - 3(b) no further information has been received regarding solar panels;
 - 5(ii) Bishop's have submitted an invoice for £4,694 for organ related work to date. It is hoped to recover some of the VAT;
 - 5(ii) the CCTV equipment is not working as expected and will be replaced;
 - 6(i) to advise a letter of thanks from the Eastern Region Ministry Course;
 - 6(ii) that work to the wall outside the church car park is due to commence on 3 April 2017;
 - 6(ii) that £950 of £1,400 has been raised towards the cost of polishing the nave pews;
 - 6(ii) to advise that while no faculty is required for the audio cabinet the church does need to liaise with the Archdeacon's office;
 - 6(ii) to advise that the churchwardens are in contact with the family regarding the memorial seat for Muriel Cracknell.

4 Forward looking items

(i) Lay Community Minister

To report that the Licensing Service for Captain Paul Tyler will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 10 May. While Paul will be appointed as a Community Minister it is anticipated that he will become a Curate in Advent 2017.

(ii) Church Statement

It was proposed by Mary Jackson, seconded by Clare Santer and agreed unanimously that the statement be updated to read as follows:

We exist to honour God by worshipping together, welcoming and showing the love of God to all and encouraging open-minded people to discover for themselves the significance of Jesus Christ

(iii) Church footprint questionnaire

PCC members considered the draft questionnaire and, following minor changes, it was proposed by Jonathan Boast, seconded by David Deacon and agreed unanimously that the questionnaire at appendix 1 be issued.

It was agreed that suggestions to improve our children's provision would be helpful

5 Reports

(i) Ministry Team report

In the absence of a written report PCC members were asked to consider displaying Christian literature (*Lifewords*) in the church. These are provided free of charge although *Lifewords*

appreciate donations. It was proposed by Paul MacLachlan, seconded by Mary Jackson and agreed unanimously that the literature should be displayed and available without charge.

It was noted that Preston St Mary will offer an informal lay-led service at 12:00noon on the first Sunday of each month with refreshments available from 11.30am.

A church Quiet Day at the start of Advent will be shared with friends from Long Melford church on Saturday 2 December.

(ii) Musical Director's report

The Musical Director's report (Appendix 2) was read and received with thanks.

The Rector reported that the Lavenham and Long Melford choirs will sing together in Lavenham church on 4 June and in Long Melford church on 18 June.

It was proposed by Graham Patrick, seconded by Jonathan Boast and agreed unanimously that a faculty be applied for to authorise the PCC to purchase from the Lavenham Sinfonia their grand piano, already located in the church, for the sum of £1500.

(iii) Families/Children's Team report

Mary Jackson's gave an oral report and commented on the forthcoming Easter Craft Day for which, to date, there have been no bookings. Lynda Sebbage offered to help place posters, advertising the event, in village shops.

(iv) Treasurer's report

The 2016 Financial Statements, already signed by the Examiner, Anthony Faulkner, were adopted by the PCC and countersigned by the Rector, Stephen Earl, and Churchwarden, Graham Patrick. The Treasurer indicated that a Restricted Fund in the name of the Rector and Churchwardens will be incorporated into the church accounts in the new financial year.

The accounts to 28 February 2017 (Appendix 3) were received with thanks.

It was agreed that the Rector should thank Sue Fayers for organising the flower rota and request that the PCC's appreciation be conveyed to all the flower-arranging team.

The Treasurer requested that, if re-appointed as Treasurer following the APCM, the Financial Statements be considered early in the agenda as she will not be a PCC member.

6. Routine Matters

(i) Clergy items

The Rector referred to the Home Communion Team, requesting that team members be re-authorised and that Tom Mabbitt be added. It was proposed by David Deacon, seconded by Pam Evans and agreed unanimously that Tom Mabbitt, Clare Santer, Geraldine Rose and Mary Jackson be authorised to offer home communion subject to the Bishop's approval.

(ii) Churchwardens' items

David Deacon advised that he would be seeking to tidy the church and would welcome help to do this. The Rector asked if this could include the Vestry as this might be a work area for the new Community Minister. The Rector also enquired if the same could be done with the churchyard sheds to release storage space.

(iii) Electoral Roll

To advise that, following the review period ending on Sunday 12 March, the Roll had increased from 139 to 159. During the year 5 people had been removed from the roll and 25 added.

7. Closing items

(i) Correspondence

There was no further correspondence

(ii) Urgent or unforeseen business

It was proposed by Graham Patrick, seconded by David Deacon and agreed unanimously that the church make an immediate donation of £500 to the Disasters Emergency Committee and that members of the congregation be encouraged to make donations up to £1,000. If not the church will make up the shortfall to ensure that at least £1,000 is donated.

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace at 8:45pm.