

St Andrew's Church
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2024.

Present : Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths, Paul Edwards, Cherie Emblerton, Dinos Kousoulou, Ruth Mackay, Richard Bunce, Louise Sear, Stephen Driver, Olive Cope, Dorothy Kousoulou, Katie Chapman, Geraldine Clark and Damian Browne

1. Opening Prayer

1.1. The Rev. Dr. Steve Griffiths opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received from: Tony Leach, Mark Thebridge, Lowri Banfield, Roger Ayrton and Irina Ponizova,

3. Declarations of Interest. It was confirmed that any member of the PCC or someone they knew who could benefit from any decision needed to declare an interest and withdraw from any discussion of that Item.

No declarations were made.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2024.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by those members who were in attendance. The minutes will be signed later.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, Archdeacon's Visitation. These minutes were also approved.

5. Matters arising. There were no Matters Arising from the 1st July meeting. It was noted that there were 2 Action Points from the Archdeacon's report.

a) To purchase a marriage register b) to Start keeping a logbook recording changes to the building. It was noted that Dinos Kousoulou will be keeping this register.

6. Safeguarding Report. Paul Edwards presented the report and it was noted that no safeguarding issues had been raised since July 1st.

A Working Group has been established to ensure that the Parish is fully compliant with the Diocese's safeguarding policies. An issue relating to the training, which needs to be undertaken by various people, has been identified. Various people had reported difficulties in completing the training. It was agreed to explore options both locally and with the Diocese, to enable these individuals to complete the training.

The PCC reviewed the Action Plan which had been produced, showing progress towards full compliance to the Diocesan standards. Paul Edwards will continue to update the Action Plan.

Rev Dr Steve Griffiths thanked the Working Group for their commitment to ensuring that St Andrew's was a safe environment for all.

It was proposed by Stephen Driver and seconded by Katie Chapman that the PCC formally adopted the Action Plan.

This was unanimously approved by the PCC.

Action: Paul Edwards.

7. Kedleston School update. Rev Dr. Steve Griffiths outlined the possible development of the school which is fast outgrowing the capacity of the current building. An option to build an extension to the "Parish Centre" is being explored with the Diocese and local authority

The proposal would be to extend the building to the Silver Street boundary wall, which would add two flexible classrooms. The extension would be funded by Kedleston but the building would be owned by the Parish. If the development is approved, the building work is likely to be completed by the end of 2026.

The PCC agreed that the proposed development should be supported, both in terms of retaining the school as a local asset and also securing the financial benefit of the lease.

8. Bell Tower Ropes. A request has been made to the PCC to fund the replacement of the Bell Tower Ropes at the cost of £1764. The meeting generally felt that the bell ringers added significantly to Church Ministry and that the request for funding should be supported.

It was proposed by Ricard Bunce and seconded by Olive Cope that the PCC should fund the cost of replacing the Bell Tower ropes. This was carried unanimously.

9. Finance matters.

Update on income and expenditure. The spreadsheet showing income and expenditure for the period ending November was examined by the meeting. The projected outcome was for a balanced budget for 2024 which included an additional payment to the Diocese of £30,000 for uncollected leasehold payments from previous years.

The issue of investing funds in a higher interest account was again raised and it was agreed that the Standing Committee would explore this further.

Action: Standing Committee.

2025 Budget Rev Dr Steve Griffiths presented the proposed budget for 2025. The meeting examined the proposed budget and the reasoning behind the changes from 2024 that had been made.

It was proposed by Paul Edwards and seconded by Geraldine Clark, that subject to the Budget for 2025 being verified by the Standing Committee, it should be adopted by the PCC. This was carried unanimously.

Action Standing Committee.

10. Fabric update. Dinos Kousoulou provided an update on the developments relating to the Church Building. The damage to the rear wall of the church and the 4 monuments has now been examined by a specialist firm who have confirmed that the monuments are secure but need urgent attention. An estimate of costs has been requested and any work will be carried out as part of the internal redecoration program. An estimate to clean all the monuments after the decorations have been carried out has also been requested. It was also noted that the architect, together with a structural engineer, has now examined the Bell Tower and the exterior of the building to provide an estimate of the essential work that should be carried out on the Bell Tower and the Church Building prior to any internal redecoration.
11. Standing Committee Decisions. The decision to undertake the essential repair to the Boiler was noted by the PCC.
12. AOB. Deanery Synod. Ruth Mackay provided an update on the meeting held on 28th November. The Global Day of Action "No More One in Three", by the Mothers Union was highlighted.

The meeting was closed with Prayer

Dinos Kousoulou Secretary