

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, MARGARETTING  
ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2019**

PRESENT: David Frost, Penny Savill, Michael Scott and Harold Taylor.

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2019

These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following matters were raised:

- (i) Insurance cover for volunteers: Penny reported Martin Taylor (church treasurer) had confirmed that he considered the support group would count as authorised volunteers and as such would be covered under the church's insurance policy. The PCC had agreed to ask Martin Taylor to draft a letter from the PCC to the Support Group Committee for Rev Patrick to sign. The letter to confirm authorised volunteers are covered under the church insurance policy.

3. CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

Harold reported on our current financial situation. After taking membership subscriptions and donations into account our bank balance now stands at £1,938.92.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The total number of names on the membership register is fifty-seven; the number of paid up members is forty-three. It was noted one family had moved out of county and another family is due to move this year. Penny confirmed seven members had not responded for two consecutive years. It was agreed to allow a further year before removing their names from the register. Reminder notices will be sent to those members who have not responded. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

5. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

David and Michael reported on the work undertaken since the March meeting which included:

- East facing hedge trimmed on the churchyard side. The brambles growing in the hedge have been removed. Box and Bay cuttings have been planted in the gaps. It was noted Sam and Mark Adams had turned down our offer to trim both sides of the hedge as they had already asked Chris Elphick to trim 'The Old Vicarage' side of the hedge.
- The front gravel path sprayed with weed killer.
- The larger stinging nettles growing along the borders of the grass paths sprayed with weed killer.
- More wildflowers identified and listed. This brings the total of flowers identified to thirty-two.
- The Gallipoli marker for Private Sawyer's grave has been installed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Widening the front gravel path to allow vehicles a decent reversing space: Harold has provided wooden bollards to mark the area. It was agreed to contact Tim Boem to see if Anthony, one of Tim's workers who helped with the path widening by the porch entrance, would be available to help. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

Wildflower areas: Concerns about the length of the grass and how this may contribute to preventing new flower growth was discussed. Phil Torr, who has established two wildflower meadows at 'Peacocks' has agreed to advise on how best to maintain our wildflower areas. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

Rear gravel path: This is due to be sprayed with weed killer. Penny confirmed it is doubtful her grandson will have the time to help. **ACTION: D. FROST**

Grass Cutting: Penny reported Chris Elphick had presented an invoice for nineteen hours work; the invoice has been forwarded to the PCC for payment. It was noted MDL's invoices for grass cuts to the side and front of the church go direct to the PCC.

## 5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Gullies and gutters: The cracks in the outside gullies, the faulty guttering and the draft proofing for the north door are still in need of attention. The work to the gullies will be completed as and when time allows. It was agreed to refer the draft proofing to the PCC. David confirmed he had asked the roofing company to quote for the guttering work. To date he has not received their quote. **ACTION: D. FROST**

The Diocese will give the PCC a warning of the date for the quinquennial inspection due in December.

**ACTION: D. FROST AND P. SAVILL**

Maurice Wright has fixed the heating clock timer to come on every Sunday. We agreed to write to Maurice to thank him for doing this. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

There is new evidence of mouse activity. Mousetraps will be placed in the vestry. **ACTION: D. FROST**

## 6. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Penny reported on the following matters discussed at the joint PCC meeting held on Saturday, 25 May, 2019.

Rural churches buildings conference (2 May): Feedback on the workshops which included looking after church buildings and using church buildings as a community space.

Parish Share (Family Purse): Due to the House of Duty reduction there has been an agreement to reduce the parish share for the five churches from £109,609 to £82,005.

Benefice Services (update): These take place when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Sunday, 30 June will be held in Buttsbury church and 29 September (Harvest Festival) will be held in Margaretting church. Mountnessing will host the service on Sunday, 29 December, which will be Nine Lessons and Carols.

Encouraging links with the church schools: Rev Matt and Tim Lee will be taking the lead on this initiative.

The next PCC meeting is to be held in St Margaret's on Saturday, 7 September.

## 7. FUND RAISING 2019

Song Cycle has been booked for Saturday, 6 July. This event has been advertised in the parish newsletter and The Five Towers magazine. Posters to advertise the event have also been given to Ingatestone library and railway station.

Strawberry Blonde has been booked for Saturday, 14 September. Tim Lee is to provide details for the newsletter. **ACTION: T. LEE**

## 8. VE DAY 75

The Armed Forces Charity (ssafa) letter outlining the plans for VE Day 75 (8-10 May 2020) was discussed. Planned activities include church bells ringing out the peace at 7pm and pub customers raising a glass at 3pm on Friday, 8 May. Church services being held on Sunday, 10 May. Penny reported the parish council is considering organising a community event and she would find out if the Red Lion and the Black Bull are aware of ssafa's plans for VE DAY 75. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Church visits: David reported a Probus club will be visiting St Margaret's on Tuesday, 18 June and U3A have booked a visit for Wednesday, 6 November.

## 9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 9 September 2019 at 11am in St Margaret's Church.