

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ON MONDAY 4 JUNE 2018**

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2018

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

2. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

3. CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

Harold reported on our current financial situation. Our bank balance as at 22 May was £1,156.10. A further £20 (two membership fees) will be added to this. The membership fees for 2018 plus donations totalled £475. Penny confirmed there were fifteen people on the membership list who did not renew their membership this year; eight of these did not renew their membership last year either. Penny agreed to send out reminder membership forms but only to the eight members who renewed their 2017 membership.

ACTION: P. SAVILL

4. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

Grass cutting: MDL has started cutting the front grass and has asked who will be responsible for the payments. We agreed to check the number of cuts made to date and to inform MDL that all invoices should be sent directly to Mr Martin Taylor, the PCC Treasurer. Chris Elphick's invoice for grass cutting was received and agreed for payment by Martin Taylor. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

David reported on his meeting with Chris Elphick. David asked Chris to concentrate on the grass paths and the grass at the far end of the churchyard. He explained that one third of the grass at the rear of the church should be cut to lawn standard and a third would be left as a flower meadow with mown paths leading to the graves at the far end of the church yard.

Michael reported a note had been left in the porch criticising the current state of the of the church yard. Penny agreed to look at the church yard and to see if Phil Torr could advise on the flower meadow area. We agreed to place a note in the newsletter explaining the grass cutting work programme. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Since the meeting Chris Elphick has been asked to trim a section of the grass along the east side of the church yard where some of the older graves are visited and attended by relatives.

David reported Mark Adams's complaint about the felling of the laurel growing to the rear of the Jesse window. David has agreed to install a section of rustic fencing and plant some evergreens in the gap created by the removal of the laurel. **ACTION: D. FROST**

Graves: Michael confirmed he is putting together a programme for cleaning the tops of the older graves.

Gravel paths: David reported he had sprayed the front and side paths of the church with weed killer.

Since the meeting the rear path has been sprayed with weed killer by one of our volunteers.

Drains: The drawing of the map identifying the location of the drains is in hand. The location of the main water pipe is to be included. Penny will email a copy of an old map showing the main water pipe to Michael.

ACTION: P. SAVILL

Church yard law seminar: David and Michael reported on the DAC's session on churchyard law they attended on 14 April. It had proved to be very good session and informative. David outlined the advice received regarding his own grave reservation and faculty requirements. It was noted every church should have a church yard hand book. Penny to check if St Margaret's PCC has a copy. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Working Party: Five volunteers had taken part. David and Michael have arranged to meet on 26 June to continue with the work programme. **ACTION: M. SCOTT and D. FROST**

5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Gullies, gutters and drains: The faulty gutters and repairs to the ancient gullies at the back of the church still need attention. It was noted the new hopper might be blocked as water had been seen overflowing onto the wall. Michael and David agreed to investigate. **ACTION: D. FROST and M. SCOTT**

Church Electricity: David reported on the loss of power in the church in May. Michael pointed out the various locations of the fuse boxes in the vestry.

6. FIRE PROOF SAFE

We discussed the offer of a fire proof safe and concluded the offer should be accepted. A space was found in the vestry to the right of the filing cabinets. Penny will inform Revd Patrick. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

7. COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The CWGC has informed the PCC that members of F. H. Sawyer's family have no objections to the Commission's request for a CWGC Gallipoli (recumbent) marker to be placed on the grave. A formal faculty request with the PCC's/incumbent's approval will now be forwarded to the DAC. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

8. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

PCC meetings: David reported on the PCC meeting held on 5 May. The next meeting is to be held in St Margaret's on 4 August.

Vacancy meeting: Penny reported on the meeting held in St Giles' church on 16 May to discuss what kind of ministry (Revd Celia's replacement) do we need. Representatives from the five churches were in attendance. Eight priorities had been identified for discussion. Parishes are being asked to select two or three from the list.

We agreed from the priorities put forward for discussion this committee would support a House for Duty post with emphasis on leading worship, Christian festivals, occasional offices (baptisms, funerals, weddings) and mission in the parishes.

9. FUND RAISING

Art Demonstration – Saturday, 2 June. Only ten people attended. The cost of the event (£150) will be met from funds left over from the disbanded Margaretting Art Group. It was thought a lack of advertising was the main reason for this disappointing turn out.

Song Cycle - Saturday, 7 July. It is hoped this event will attract an audience of at least 40 people. Posters will be put up in Ingatestone (the library, railway station and Avrohurst). It will also be advertised in the Margaretting News and Ingatestone's Five Towers. Penny will provide the interval refreshments with Harold's guidance as to the choice of wine. Claire Renowden has volunteered to help serve the refreshments. Harold agreed to order the wine and to provide some parish goblets. **ACTION: H. TAYLOR and P. SAVILL**

Interesting Talks – September and October 2018. Dates to be checked with Bev Keeble and Peter Trick. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

Southend Choirs – On hold with the view to book this group to perform in July 2019.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6 August 2018 at 11am in the church vestry.