

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN PONDRS LODGE, MAIN ROAD, MARGARETTING ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019**

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 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. Since the last meeting income received totalled £120 comprising two late subscriptions for 2018 - £20 and a donation from Margaretting Friends - £100. Expenditure totalled £250 – contribution towards the PCC's 2018 grass cutting costs.

It was agreed we would continue to make an annual contribution towards the grass cutting.

Our bank balance now stands at £1,326.91.

4. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL LETTERS – 2019

The 2019 renewal form and letter were circulated and approved. It was agreed to include a copy of the 2018 AGM minutes with the renewal notices. The renewal notices will be posted to all members within the week ending Saturday, 9 March. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

5. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

David and Michael reported on the work they had undertaken since the last meeting which included the completion of the new rose bed in the front lawn and cutting back the east hedge at the rear of the church. Patrick Wreathal has volunteered to cut the short length of copper beech hedging on the west side of the churchyard.

The overgrown east hedge, its awkward access and height of the Bay tree were discussed. David and Michael agreed to trim back the hedge on Thursday, 14 March and to see if Harold's combination safety ladders would solve the access problem. They also offered to trim back the Old Vicarage side of the hedge. It was agreed to send an email to Sam Adams to see if she would like to take advantage of this offer. Michael agreed to check out the dates when hedge cutting is illegal due to bird nesting.

ACTION: D. FROST, M. SCOTT AND P. SAVILL

Vehicles driving over the grass at the front of the church is still a problem. It was agreed a wider path may solve the problem. David and Michael agreed to mark out the proposed increase in the width of the path and to see which would look best as a barrier in the grass - wooden posts or pieces of split tree trunks. They also agreed to look at the large conifer growing at one side of the path. **ACTION: D. FROST AND M. SCOTT**

Following a discussion on whether volunteers have insurance cover when working on church premises it was agreed to check the PCC's insurance liability policy. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The church architects will notify the PCC as and when they plan to conduct their next quinquennial inspection which is due in December 2019.

David reported the faulty guttering (approximately 25 yards in length) is still in need of attention. He reported also that he had been in touch with a roofing company previously employed to quote for these repairs.

Future work inside the church included renewing the lime wash on the wall behind the font and the font cover needing some attention.

Mousetraps - to date twenty mice had been killed.

6. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Tim reported on the joint PCC meeting held on Saturday, 16 February. He highlighted the following matters discussed at that meeting and confirmed Claire Renowden had been co-opted onto the PCC.

- The introduction of Revd Matt Houghton.
He was licensed on 10th February to be assistant curate at Ingatestone and Fryerning and at Margareting, Mountnessing and Buttsbury.
- Vacancy update: The vacancy profile will be submitted to the Bishop's Council in due course.
- Benefice Services:
31 March (Mothering Sunday) – Mountnessing;
30 June – Buttsbury;
29 September (Harvest Festival) – Margareting.
29 December (9 lessons and carols) Mountnessing
- Easter Services at St Margaret's church
Good Friday – Last hour of the Cross 2-3pm
Easter Day – Communion – 10am

The next PCC meeting is to be held in St Margaret's on Saturday, 11 May 2019.

7. FUND RAISING 2019

Song Cycle has been booked for Saturday, 6 July.

Penny will sort out publicity arrangements. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Tim reported David Pickthal's brass band was not interested in performing in St Margaret's church, but he thought 'Strawberry Blond', a saxophone duo, may be interested. **ACTION: T. LEE**

Angela Smith had asked whether we had considered Matthew Bason, the organist/key board player she had recommended. It was agreed to listen to his cd and to visit his website. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

David reported he had a U3A church visit booked for 5 March.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Extending the churchyard: David confirmed he had not raised this issue with the PCC; the owners of the Old Vicarage were not interested in selling any or part of their land.

Church heating: The heating is turned on and off manually. The automatic heating control switch has not been used for several years. Penny agreed to ask Maurice Wright if he would check the existing control switch and advise us whether we need a new one installed. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 10 June 2019 at 11am in St Margaret's church vestry.