

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT PONDERS LODGE, MAIN ROAD, MARGARETTING ON MONDAY 5 MARCH 2018

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 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 funds total £701.10. This includes £100 donation from Margarettng Friends (2017 Village Christmas Fair) and £250 from Angela Marks (bell ringing on 15 February for Ian Marks' Thanksgiving Service). Harold read out a thank you note from Angela. Penny confirmed she had begun circulating the 2018 membership forms and Michael's letter to members.

4. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

Trees, hedges and grass pathways: The western hedge has been roughly cleared and will now need continuous maintenance. When working on this hedge deposits of soil from grave digging had been discovered. It was agreed this could be used to level the grass path through to the third section of the churchyard. Eventually this will become a two metres wide path and be mown regularly.

Michael reported Patrick Wreathall had removed a tree that had fallen on one of the graves along the west boundary. We agreed to send Patrick a thank you letter. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Graves: Since the last meeting David and Michael estimated they had each spent three full days tidying the churchyard. Invasive ivy had been cleared from one the older graves

Grass cutting: We discussed the grass cutting situation. Our proposal that MDL is contracted to cut the grass in the front and to the side of the church (£50 per cut) and Chris Elphick be instructed to concentrate on the grass at the back of the church had not been reported to the PCC. We also discussed the PCC's lack of income and how the extra cost to cover the proposed grass cutting arrangements may prove difficult for the PCC. After further discussion we agreed to allocate £250 to the PCC for grass cutting from our funds each year.

We also agreed:

- a) Michael would confirm the MDL quote is still valid;
- b) Harold and David would contact Chris Elphick to discuss grass cutting arrangements and
- c) To raise grass cutting at the APCM on 18 March and explain how increased costs would be offset by the donations received from the Support Group and the Parish Council;

Gullies, gutters and drains: The rain water gutters have all been cleared by one of our volunteers who will continue to check and clear them as and when needed. The faulty gutters still need attention. This work will be undertaken, using Harold's materials, when the weather permits. The ancient gullies at the back of the church have several cracks that need filling. We agreed to fill these using a dry mix method, weather permitting.

Work on a map to show the locations of all the drains in the churchyard is in hand. Penny reported she had located a map showing the location of the water main pipe. A copy will be circulated to the committee.

ACTION: P. SAVILL

Churchyard Law: David and Michael have received a list of questions to be discussed at the DAC's session on churchyard law on 14 April. They agreed to forward a further question about graves without headstones or markers to the organisers i.e. 'Is there a legal requirement for a grave to have a headstone or a maker to identify the plot.' **ACTION: D. FROST and M. SCOTT**

5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

David summarised the repairs and maintenance work he had undertaken since the last meeting which included: work on the altar steps; plaster walls painted on either side of the altar; wooden altar rail polished; plaster walls painted on either side of the W.C. door; first coats of paint on either side of the front door and on the brown stains in the Lady Chapel.

David reported he is monitoring the damp patch at the west end of the church and that the steps into the Vestry need attention. Penny reported a church visitor had contacted her to say how welcoming and cared for the church is now looking. We thanked David for his time and work in the church.

Tasks on our 'things to do' list include: investigating the damp patch on one of the W.C.'s walls; removing the brown stain on the north wall caused by a previous roof leak; investigating the removal of the redundant heating pipes on the window ledges. David agreed to contact Maurice Wright, a retired electrician, to see if he would be willing to advise on the removal of the heating pipes. **ACTION: D. FROST**

We noted there are a number of non-working light bulbs – one in the Vestry and one above the lectern. Michael agreed to check the lights and Harold agreed to check spare bulbs. **ACTION: D. TAYLOR and M. SCOTT**

6. COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The DAC has advised a formal faculty with the PCC's/incumbent's approval is required for the Commission's request for a CWGC Gallipoli (recumbent) marker to be placed on the grave of F. H. Sawyer. There was no mention of the usual fee being waived for this faculty. Penny will prepare the necessary requests and forward to Revd Patrick. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

7. CAR PARKING AREA

May Hasler, who lives in 2, Hall Cottages has expressed her concern about the car park light not working. This light was put up by John Currie. May questioned whether it is the church's responsibility to repair the light. We agreed the light is probably linked to Margaretting Hall's electricity supply. We agreed to contact Gary Sharp and enquire if he would look in to this concern. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

8. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

PCC meetings: David reported on the PCC meeting held on 3 February. This was a joint meeting with Buttsbury and Mountnessing. David was encouraged to stand for the PCC at the next APCM since co-opting him will mean that the 20% rule will be breached. Margaretting's accounts for 2017 were agreed by the Margaretting PCC. The times for the Easter services across the benefice were agreed. Revd Tim will lead a service on Easter Day at 10am in St Margaret's. The church will be open on Good Friday between 2 and 3pm.

The future pattern of PCC meetings will be joint meetings. Meetings for the rest of year have been scheduled to take place in the local school at 10am on Saturday 5 May, 4 August and 3 November.

St Margaret's APCM: This will take place immediately following the morning service on Sunday 18 March. Notices have been pinned on the church notice boards.

8. FUND RAISING

'The Creation' – Sunday, 24 February 2018. We agreed Christine Lemon's (Arts Roundabout) latest concert was a great success. *Since the meeting Christine has sent a cheque for £350 to the PCC with a note stating this money is specifically for the maintenance of the church.*

Art Demonstration – Saturday, 2 June 2018. Arrangements are in hand.

Song Cycle - Saturday, 7 July. Michael will be the contact person for tickets - £10 to include refreshments, wine/fruit juice and 'nibbles'. Penny agreed to contact Song Cycle to firm up publicity and to provide the refreshments with Harold's guidance as to the choice of wine. **ACTION: H. TAYLOR and P. SAVILL**

Interesting Talks – September and October 2018. Michael to check dates with Bev Keeble and Peter Trick.

Southend Choirs – We agreed to book this group to perform in July 2019. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Sponsored Christmas Trees – Angela Smith had put together a comprehensive information package for this fundraising idea. We agreed it would be a good event for a larger parish with a larger church. We discussed whether it would be feasible to hold a tree competition along the lines of the parish council's scarecrow competition. We also agreed Harold would look through Angela's information and Penny would contact Angela to thank her for her suggestion. **ACTION: H. TAYLOR and P. SAVILL**

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4 June 2018 at 11am in the church vestry.