

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ON MONDAY 6 AUGUST 2018**

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 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 now stands at £1,486.56.

We agreed to contribute £25.29 towards St Margaret's CCLI church music licence for 2018/19. Harold reported Safe and Sound's invoice dated 4th July, totalling £99.54 for supplying and fixing a new lock to the WC internal door, had been paid by the Support Group. The PCC will be informed accordingly. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

The need to gain access to the WC area via the fire exit door was discussed. Harold agreed to sort out the south door key problem. **ACTION: H. TAYLOR**

Penny confirmed the reminder notices for the eight members who had not renewed their 2018 memberships will be sent out within the next two weeks. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

4. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

Churchyard Maps: A copy of the churchyard map, which now includes the location of the drains and water supply pipe to the church and churchyard, was circulated at the meeting. Penny agreed to make further copies for the committee.

It was noted a map dated 1954, which records the location of the main water supply in neighbouring fields and its connection to the water supply pipe to the church and the old vicarage, clearly shows a much wider churchyard extending into the fields along the west boundary. After discussion it was agreed the west boundary for the church land should be queried with the Land Registry. Penny agreed to send copies of the 1954 map to Revd Patrick and Archdeacon Elizabeth with a request that the matter is referred to the Diocesan Legal Team. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Work Programme: David and Michael reported on the work they had undertaken since the June working party. This had included the improvements to the slope in the path leading to the far end of the churchyard and the clearing of debris from the new rainwater hopper on the south wall. Michael and David will be completing the repairs to the faulty gutters and ancient gullies to the rear of the church on Thursday, 30 August.

The following work programme was discussed and agreed.

Drawing up a list of wild flowers growing in the churchyard.

Strimming wildflower area.

Trimming the south facing beech hedge in early September.

Cutting back the Bay Laurel in the east hedge.

Spraying the stinging nettles growing below the Sycamore and Myrobalan trees.

Spraying the ivy and larger weeds growing on the older graves.

Reshaping the rose bed in the front lawn.

It was agreed to contact Sam Adams to let her know the Bay Laurel is to be trimmed back to a manageable height. It was agreed also to ask Chris Elphick to strim the wildflower area and to include the grass under the Sycamore and Myrobalan trees when he cuts the grass paths. **ACTION: D. FROST**

Wasp Nest: David reported a wasp nest in a grave adjacent to the one of the paths. A 'wasp nest warning' notice will be placed nearby. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

David advised the internal decoration of the church needs thinking about and the draft proof to the north door needs attention. Ongoing maintenance tasks include painting over stains in the plaster and repairing the plaster on the north facing wall at the east end of the church. It was agreed the church cobwebs need clearing and to arrange a cleaning day for Saturday, 29th September and let the PCC know. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

It was noted the next quinquennial inspection is due in December 2019 and that the PCC should be made aware as there will be cost implications. **ACTION: D. FROST AND P. SAVILL**

6. EALC LOCAL SERVICES FUND

We noted this fund provides revenue grants. Successful projects have included community gardening and playing field maintenance projects. We agreed to see if our churchyard plan would be eligible for funding. **ACTION: M. SCOTT and P. SAVILL**

7. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

PCC meetings: Penny reported on the joint PCC meeting held on Saturday, 4 August. The national initiatives for the WWI Anniversary on Sunday 11 November were discussed. This included the placing of silhouettes in churches and schools being asked to make 100 hearts for 100 years. The PCC is going to see if the local school would like to exhibit the hearts made by its pupils in St Margaret's. The idea of whether we should organise an open church day to exhibit the hearts with ringing the bells to mark the anniversary had been discussed. Michael agreed to raise this idea with the bell ringers. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

Other agenda items reported included the Diocesan approval for a CWGC Gallipoli (recumbent) marker to be placed on Pte Sawyer's grave; the licensing of Tim Lee, Lay Reader for the five churches on Sunday, 30 September; the Benefice Harvest Supper and quiz in St John's church, Mountnessing on Saturday, 22 September.

The next PCC meeting is to be held in St Margaret's on Saturday, 3 November.

Vacancy meeting: Revd Patrick and Archdeacon Elizabeth have met to discuss the parishes' expectations of the post. These will go to Bishop John (the new bishop of Bradwell). Parishioners are encouraged to talk about the vacancy - there may be someone who knows someone who might be interested in applying for the post.

8. FUND RAISING

Song Cycle - Saturday, 7 July. The event was a success and raised £390. We agreed to see if the group could make a return visit next July. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Interesting Talks – These are on hold.

Music Evening – A joint fund-raising musical event (village hall and church support group). This idea to be explored with the village hall committee.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Network Rail. The church crossing is to be lifted for inspection on the weekend of 22 and 23 September.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

AGM – Wednesday, 17 October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Chelmer Room, Village Hall

Committee Meeting - Monday, 5 November 2018 at 11am at Ponders Lodge, Main Road.