

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT PONDERS LODGE, MAIN ROAD, MARGARETTING ON MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2018

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2018

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

2. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following matters were raised:

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Penny reported she had telephoned the CWGC to find out what is happening regarding the headstone for Private F.H. Sawyer's grave and the war graves notice for the churchyard gate.

Since the meeting it has been confirmed the CWGC would like to apply for a CWGC Gallipoli (recumbent) marker to be placed on the grave of F. H. Sawyer. The memorial would be of Portland stone and erection work would be carried out on the understanding that if relatives ever objected the memorial would be removed entirely at CWGC's expense. The sign for the gate is to be installed before August 2018 – possibly within the next four months.

The CWGC's proposal for a Gallipoli marker, together with a request that the normal headstone erection fee is waived, has been forwarded to the DAC for approval.

Volunteers: Ron (G Sharp's father in law) has fixed the car parking sign to a removable post. The post is being stored at the side of 2 Hall Cottages. Ron puts the sign in the car parking area when there is a service or event taking place in the church. Ron has volunteered to provide a salt bin to be situated by the water hut.

Christian Copyright International Limited: £28.48, our contribution towards the 2018 copyright licence allowing music events to be held in the church, has been paid to the PCC.

3. CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

Harold reported on our current financial situation. We have £3,047.60 in the bank. We discussed the costs associated with the church porch improvements and noted the bill for the work had been settled by Harold in December 2017. We expressed our thanks to Harold for organising and managing the work through to completion. We agreed to reimburse Harold £2,800 as submitted on his personal bill.

David reported he had received a donation of £103.50 from a member of the Byford family who now resides in New Zealand. We agreed this donation would go towards the costs of buying the new roses for the rose garden in front of the church. **ACTION: D. FROST**

4. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - 2018

The 2017 AGM notes plus a letter from Michael will be sent with the membership renewal request forms in February. Michael agreed to draft a letter for the committee's approval.

ACTION: M. SCOTT AND P. SAVILL

5. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

Uneven grass pathways: Penny reported on the feedback to her enquiries about who digs the graves.

Revd Patrick thought the grave diggers were employed by the undertakers. We agreed it would be doubtful if there would ever be enough surplus soil from the new graves to level the pathway to the second extension of the churchyard. Michael and David agreed to meet to plan how best to level this ground.

ACTION: M. SCOTT AND D. FROST

Front, side and rear paths: The paths will need spraying with a weed killer in the Spring.

Trees and hedges: The following actions were agreed: Michael to continue cutting back the growth on the eastern boundary and to contact volunteer Patrick Wreathal in February to see when he is free to help. David to trim the beech hedge growing along the south boundary. **ACTION M. SCOTT AND D. FROST**

We noted there are a lot of brambles on the western boundary which will need spraying with weed killer in Spring when they start to grow. Penny agreed to remind volunteer Christopher Woods and to find out which type of weed killer he used on the paths. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Grass: We discussed the grass cutting quotation (£3,560) received from MDL and agreed the PCC had insufficient income to hire MDL. We also agreed the current grass cutting arrangements need tightening up and they should specify the number of cuts required each year. After further discussion we agreed to recommend to the PCC that:

- a) MDL is contracted to cut the grass in the front and to the side of the church (£50 per cut).
- b) Chris Elphick is asked to cut the grass behind the church.

ACTION: D. FROST AND P. SAVILL

Gutters and drains: Margaret's grandson has cleared the gutters. The tall ladder for the gutters is being stored in the vestry. Work on a map to show the locations of all the drains in the churchyard is in hand.

Churchyard Plan: The 1990 map showing locations and grave reference numbers of all the graves is being updated. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Churchyard Law: David and Michael have agreed to attend the DAC's morning session on churchyard law on 14 April. Penny will contact the DAC to book their attendance. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

6. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Chancel – east wall: The repairs to the head of the window arch in the chancel east wall and cleaning the pargetting and the inside glass of the Jesse window were completed the week beginning 4 December. One of the pastel coloured motifs on the arch has been left exposed for interest. The loose pinnacle has been reset. All concerned have expressed their satisfaction with the work. Bakers' invoice has been paid. David has dusted the stonework behind the altar. The DAC has advised this work should be recorded in the church fabric book.

ACTION: D. FROST AND P. SAVILL

David reported he is currently working on the altar steps and when replacing the blue runners in the central aisle noticed a damp patch at the west end. We agreed to monitor this dampness. There are four remaining tasks on the 'things to do' list: painting the areas of damp plaster with of a coat of lime wash; investigating the damp patch on one of the W.C.'s walls; filling the cracks in the outside gullies; removing the brown stain caused by a previous roof leak in the ceiling of the lady chapel.

7. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Penny reported on the PCC meeting held on 28 October. This was a joint meeting with Buttsbury and Mountnessing. Although only one member from Buttsbury attended those who did attend agreed the time was well spent. The next PCC meeting will take on Saturday, 3 February in the local school at 10am. The first part of this meeting will be a joint meeting as before; a Margaretting PCC only meeting following afterwards.

The vicarage has been let. None of the three PCCs or Revd Patrick had been informed. The long handle broom has been retrieved. The community carol singing in the village raised £270.50 for CHESS. The date for this year's community singing is Monday, 17 December. Nineteen people attended the 8:30am Christmas Day service; £95 was collected for CHESS. The church will continue to offer one service a month only during 2018.

8. FUND RAISING

'The Creation' – Sunday, 24 February. Christine Lemmon (Arts Roundabout) has offered to organise a performance of 'The Creation', her pupils' latest concert, in St Margaret's to raise funds for the PCC.

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

Song Cycle - Saturday, 7 July. Penny has agreed to contact this group to discuss publicity arrangements.

Southend Choirs – date to be agreed. *(Since the meeting Southend Choirs have confirmed a donation of £200, to help the choir's running costs, would be expected. This is the usual amount donated.)*

Interesting Talks – May, September and October. Bev Keeble and Peter Trick have agreed to take part.

Sponsored Christmas Trees – December 2018. Angela Smith's idea. Penny has agreed to chat this idea through with Angela and Margaret Boxall and to report back to the support group committee. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 5 March 2018 at 11am in the church vestry, weather permitting.