

Supporters of St Margaret's Church, Margareting 2017 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of St Margaret's Church held on 18 October 2017 in the Chelmer Room at Margareting Village Hall commencing 7:30pm

Attendees: 9 members.

Executive Committee Members - David Frost, Penny Savill (secretary), Michael Scott (chairman) and Harold Taylor (treasurer).

Members - Bev Keeble, Margaret Boxall, Valerie Frost, Patricia Taylor and Jennie Scott

Apologies were received from Susan Keeble, Angela Marks, Jean Offord, Jean Rogers, Angela and Anthony Smith.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The chairman, Michael Scott, opened the second Annual General Meeting of the Supporters of St Margaret's Church by welcoming all persons present.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM

The minutes of the first AGM held on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 were received and agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The chairman introduced his report by commenting how in his 2016 annual report he had mentioned the support group was slowly making progress and finding its way. This year he was pleased to report how many tasks had been completed which included the improvements to the churchyard and the priority repairs to the church building identified in the Quinquennial Inspection 2012.

Issues highlighted in his report and discussed included meeting our goals of increasing usage of the church and raising funds. Recognition was given to the support received from the membership. A report on the work of the support group will be included in November's Margareting News.

A copy of the chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

4. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer, Harold Taylor, informed the meeting that funds in the 'Supporters of St Margaret's' bank account totalled £3,152. However, there are outstanding bills to settle which include the church porch drainage improvement and shingle for the church paths. To date income for year totalled £1,941 (donations and membership fees). Expenditure totalled £1,269 (compost structure, materials for repairs undertaken by volunteers).

The chairman thanked the treasurer for his work during the year.

5. RENEWAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

The total number of paid up members is fifty-two. The annual subscription for 2016/2017 was £10 per person. The meeting agreed not to change the subscription rates for 2018. Subscription requests are due to be sent in February 2018.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The chairman informed the meeting that members of the Executive Committee are required to retire at the AGM but may stand for re-election and any member may stand for election to the Executive Committee.

The chairman also informed the meeting that the existing committee members - David Frost, Penny Savill, Michael Scott and Harold Taylor - were willing to stand for re-election. In view of the above and there being no other nominations for election to the committee the existing committee members were formally re-elected en bloc.

7. CARE OF THE CHURCHYARD - FUTURE WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The chairman summarised the ongoing maintenance tasks required to keep the area attractive. Six tasks were identified. Members and volunteers agreed to take on the tasks as listed below:

1. Sweeping the gully – Bev Keeble
2. Weeding/spraying the path – Penny Savill to ask her grandson
3. Spraying large plants (brambles) Penny Savill to ask her grandson
4. Cleaning the gutters – Margaret to ask her grandson
5. Managing the rose bed – David Frost
6. Managing the compost bed – Michael Scott.

Committee member, David Frost, reported on all the improvements accomplished to date in the churchyard. These included making safe and clearing ivy from some of the ancient gravestones and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission agreeing to erect a standard pattern headstone on Private Sawyer's grave.

A pathway has been created to allow safe access for coffins to the second extension of the churchyard. The front, side and rear paths have been weeded and partly shingled. Brambles, self-rooted shrubs and dead trees have been removed - MDL (the parish council's grass cutting contractor) has been approached for an estimate to look after the grass. A request has been submitted to the parish council for an increase in its annual contribution towards the grass cutting. A new compost bin and protective housing for the outside water tap have been built. Volunteers and committee members were thanked for their time and work

8. FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES – 2018

Ideas explored included music concerts and a series of interesting talks. Names put forward for the talks included Bev Keeble on the history of gunpowder and Peter Trick on church bells/the Bow Foundry. It was noted Tim Boem is still willing to repeat his Soul/Disco music evening. The Southend Choirs have been recommended. The committee is due to meet on Monday, 6 November and fund raising will be an agenda item.

The meeting noted the two fund raising events booked for 2018 – Art Demonstration on Saturday, 2 June and Song Cycle on Saturday, 7 July.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chancel – east wall: Work to repair the plaster, clean the Jesse window and pargeting began on 16 October. All work to be completed by Saturday, 28 October.

Bell Ringers 2018 Carol Service: A request has been received to hold the district bell ringers carol service in St Margaret's next year. Revd Patrick has agreed.

Church Contents: The NADFAS (1976 report on St Margaret's church) has been found. A copy will be kept in the vestry.

U3A - requests for a tour of St Margaret's. David is happy to respond to these.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Wednesday, 17th October 2018 at 7:30pm in the Chelmer Room in the village hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25pm.