

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

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

1. NOTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2017

These were agreed as a correct record with one correction to minute 9. The date was corrected to read Monday, 4 September.

2. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

3. CHURCHYARD SURVEY 2017 AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

CHURCHYARD SURVEY

We discussed putting together a churchyard maintenance programme and agreed to work through the churchyard survey checklist as recorded in the last minutes rather than drawing up a separate management plan. We agreed also to list six churchyard maintenance tasks to present and discuss at the AGM. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

4. CHURCHYARD IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

Gravestones

The grave to the right of the church porch entrance has been moved back into position. Work has started on checking and making safe a number of ancient headstones including removing the ivy growing on some of the graves. A pathway has been cleared to allow safe access for coffins to the second extension of the churchyard.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has responded positively to the PCC's request for help in looking after the grave of Private F.H. Sawyer. The Commission will erect a standard pattern headstone on Private Sawyer's grave as the private memorial does not adequately commemorate him.

Front, side and rear paths: The path round the porch has been hand weeded. The concrete edging stone to the rear path has been part exposed and the paths have been sprayed with weed killer by David. Harold has arranged for a further tidying up of the rear path edging stones and the removal of the deeper rooted weeds by hand weeding.

Trees, hedges and grass: Michael has removed the dead Ash. The Sycamore and Bay needing attention will be dealt with as soon as possible - especially the Bay which is obscuring light to the Jesse window. We noted Patrick Wreathall has volunteered to take care of the hedges as when his farm work permits. We agreed to ask Patrick if he would help with the tree work. We discussed the quote obtained from Greenscapes (£6,500) for grass cutting and churchyard maintenance and agreed it was too high. We agreed to contact Luke Pharoah of MDL for a quote and to talk to Greenscapes about their quote. MDL will be asked to provide a quote which identifies the costs separately for cutting the different grassed areas in the churchyard. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

5. CHURCH BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Porch drainage: The church porch drainage has been completed to everyone's satisfaction. Several compliments have been received about the improvements made to the porch. Harold explained the porch and roof rainwater drainage systems. We noted the downpipes for the church roof all feed into an underground pipe which works its way round various graves and ends up in a brick constructed well (built circa 1860). This well is located in the dense coppice opposite the 'Old Rectory'. There is a significant amount of silt in the well which will eventually need removing. The

waste water from the W.C. is fed into a separate special 'up-to-date' system. We agreed to draw up a map showing the location of both drainage systems. **ACTION: M. SCOTT, D. FROST, H. TAYLOR**

Gutters: Michael and David reported they had made an unsuccessful attempt to make good the damaged gutters. Another attempt is to be made using Harold's patching materials.

ACTION: M. SCOTT, D. FROST, H. TAYLOR

Chancel – east wall: Bakers' quote totalling £4,600 plus VAT for repairing the plaster, cleaning the Jesse window and pargeting has been agreed by the PCC and the DAC. Bakers of Danbury have agreed a start date of 16th October. All work to be completed by Sunday 29th October. David to ask Bakers to make sure the work is completed by Saturday 28th October. **ACTION: D. FROST**

6. CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

Harold reported on our current financial situation. We now have £3,332.07 in the bank. Harold was reimbursed for the wheelbarrow purchase and the labour costs associated with hand weeding the gravel drive. Two new members have joined the support group bringing the total of paid up members to 60. There are two outstanding membership renewals to be chased. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

7. PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Penny reported on the various matters discussed at the PCC meeting held on 15 June. There will be one Sunday service only a month. This will take place on the third Sunday in the month. The time of the service is to revert to a 10am start. Revd Patrick is to confirm whether the new time for the monthly service will start in October or November. (Since the meeting it has been confirmed the new time will start in October. Rev. Tim Pigrem, a retired priest, will be taking these services.

8. FUND RAISING

Soul and Disco Evening: Tim Boem will be playing a selection of his vinyl records on Saturday, 28 October from 6 to 10pm. £5 entry donation on the door. Under 16s free. Michael is willing to attend for the entire evening and Penny will attend for a couple of hours. David and Harold agreed to check their diaries.

Song Cycle: This group has been booked for Saturday, 7 July 2018. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

Art Demonstration: We agreed to hold this event on a Saturday in June next year. Susan and Jennie to be asked to choose their preferred Saturday. **ACTION: M. SCOTT**

Southend Choirs: This choir was recommended by Angela Smith at last year's AGM. The choir is willing to organise a concert in St Margaret's church next year in return for a donation. We agreed to ask Angela if she had been to one of the choir's performances. We agreed also to confirm the level of donation expected and if possible to attend one of their concerts. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The AGM will take place in the village hall October (provided a room is free) at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 18. **ACTION: P. SAVILL**

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6 November 2017 at 11am.