

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2020 – St Peter's, Draycott

14/10/2020 – on Zoom

Minutes

1. Introductory remarks

Stuart Burns, Rector

- APCMs normally take place during April in the year following the one to be reviewed. The current meeting is being held under special dispensation to churches in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation. This stipulates that it needs to be held before the end of October.
- Next year we should aim to have a more normal meeting, held during April 2021.
- In the current special circumstances, all the present office holders are asked if they would remain in post until next year.
- Before the end of January, diocesan meetings should be held to ratify churchwardens.
- The year under review is officially still 2019. However this is rather a long way back, and the current year has given us so many pressing concerns that we should cover the year to date also.

2. Attendance, apologies

Those attending the Zoom call were Stuart Burns, David Cheetham, Thea Oliver, John English, Chris Green and Sarah Burns.

There were apologies from Pat Mullay, Lynda Whittle, Tricia Lumley (all away); also from Audrey Morgan, Nikki Devitt and Gill Dury.

3. Minutes from last meeting

Minutes were voted to be an accurate record (proposed John English, seconded Sarah Burns, all in favour).

4. Vestry meeting for churchwardens

As explained, the churchwardens have been asked to stay in post for the present. They have already given their consent to this. Therefore Chris Green and John English were declared as the churchwardens going forward to 2021.

5. Statutory Reports

Electoral Roll (report A)

Chris Green (standing in for Richard Dingley)

This was accepted. NB. We shall need another electoral roll officer, but this is not too urgent as the main task is when a new roll is to be drawn up (which will not be for several years).

Report on PCC proceedings (report B)

Chris Green (PCC Secretary)

Richard has been thanked by the PCC for his great services to the PCC (letter sent).

Financial report (report C)

David Cheetham (PCC Treasurer)

David remarked that we have been losing money since lockdown- but our reserves are such that we cannot justify claiming any grants.

Thea Oliver proposed acceptance of this report, Chris Green seconded; all were in favour.

Churchwarden's fabric report (report D)

Chris Green/ John English

- There are plans in hand for forward management in all outstanding issues mentioned.
- An addition to point 6 (engagement with environmental concerns). Nikki Devitt had organised a benefice meeting on the 6th October, with speakers from the diocese. This was recorded and the recording can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NFRck9odqI&t=133s>.

We thanked Nikki for taking this forward. The PCC now has a mandate to incorporate environmental measures into its management of the church in 2020/21.

- The state of trees in the churchyard was discussed, together with other churchyard issues.
- The large beech tree has fungus growing on it and may not be safe. The fir tree by the gate into the car park is definitely not safe.
- Some emergency work was done on the fir tree earlier this year. All the trees should have been attended to (by Western Power), but this has not happened due to the pandemic.
- The lime trees have not been pollarded for 8 years, and should be done again.
- SOSF have been doing some maintenance work (e.g. along the wall by the road).
- Chris Green has been clearing leaves from paths. SOSF is happy to help.

6. Re-appointment of laity to the PCC

All current members have agreed to stay on, although Richard Dingley has stepped down (minuted in previous PCC meeting). These PCC members are: David, Cheetham, Gill Dury, John English, Chris Green, Pat Mullay, Thea Oliver and Tricia Lumley. In addition, the

Thomases (Shaji and Jincy) have been approached and are willing to participate (probably not both at once). They will be included in the next PCC invitation (action Chris Green). John English proposed as new chair, with Thea Oliver as reserve.

7. Re-appointment of sidespeople

In effect, this is now Gill, Pat and Chris. The work is different at the moment, with some setting out and clearing being done by other people. However there is a continued need for a 'meet and greet' team. Where other duties permit, Chris Green and John English will play a more active part (such as in the setting up and clearing away of books, chairs etc.).

8. Appointment of independent financial examiner

We would like Alan Rowntree to do this for us again, if he is willing (proposed: Thea Oliver; seconded, Sarah Burns; all in favour).

9. Remarks from the rector

Stuart Burns - see reports

We were grateful that Stuart had found positive things to say, in spite of so much that has to be deplored during the last year. We thanked Stuart for his leadership over this period.

Stuart replied that in comparison to most other benefices we have managed to keep more things going (such as church opening, services). This is partly thanks to the retired clergy, Judith and Hilary, who have continued to play a very active part. In particular this has allowed us to maintain a full coverage of services in our churches (when we were allowed) and also on Zoom.

10. Any other matters of importance to the parish

- Stuart wished to thank the PCC for all that they do.
- Thea proposed that to help contribute to church funds (in the absence of other fundraising events), we have a 'gift box' in church during 5th and 6th September, when Thea and Karen Percival will be in church supervising the Wreath Festival. John English proposed we accepted this, and Chris Green seconded. All were in favour.
- John asked if we should be displaying the NHS QR code in church, as per the letter from the bishops. We can apply for this on the government website. The meeting asked if John could organise this – thank you.