

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council, St. Peter's Draycott

Held on 02/11/2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the church

1. Opening prayers	1
2. Apologies, welcome	1
3. Additions or amendments to agenda	1
4. PCC minutes from 07/09/21- confirmation of accuracy	1
5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes	1
6. New matters	2
6a. Bench in churchyard	2
6b. Tree work in churchyard	3
6c. Repair café	3
6d. Carol service	3
7. Continuing matters	3
7a. Worship	3
7b. Synod	3
7c. Finance update	4
7d. Fabric update	4
7e. School	4
7f. Supporters of St Peter's	4
8. Dates	4

1. Opening prayers

Stuart opened the meeting with a reading and prayers. John took the chair.

2. Apologies, welcome

<i>Present</i>		<i>Present</i>	
Stuart Burns	SB	Tricia Lumley	TL
David Cheetham	DC	Pat Mullay	PM
Gill Dury	GD		
John English	JE	<i>Absent/Apology</i>	
Chris Green	CG	Thea Oliver	TO

3. Additions or amendments to agenda

(none received).

4. PCC minutes from 07/09/21- confirmation of accuracy

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record and signed by JE.

5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes

03/08/21 #6e (PA system review). An Intek engineer had visited with TO and DC in attendance, and had later provided a quotation. This has been reviewed by Nick Ware, Barry Rose's brother-in-law, a sound system expert. Both quote and review were circulated to the PCC. Nick Ware thought the specifications and price were reasonable for our purposes, but had questions. CG had later asked the Intek engineer who had satisfied him with the answers. The PCC discussed relative merits of rack-mounted and desk-mounted mixers and agreed the former (the Intek solution) was better for our needs. We decided a handheld radio-microphones would be a worthwhile addition (up to £200). We also need to look into security, following the Rodney Stoke experience of having an attempted theft of their own system (a similar one from Intek). Can we house it in the vestry?

We discussed the merits of getting another quotation, but decided that we would trust the many good features of both the company and (especially) the good experience of Rodney Stoke with the product. It would be very difficult to evaluate alternatives quotations properly.

ACTION: CG to get extra pricing for the radio microphone and raise the issue of putting it in the vestry. Failing that he would consult Rodney Stoke on their security measures. Otherwise the PCC approved the decision to purchase this system.

07/09/21 #6b (Eco Church)

(i) (Worship) – we had an excellent Creation Sunday joint benefice service on 31st October.

(ii) (Buildings)

- Rainwater butt – still not come into stock at Hillier Garden Centre
- Energy efficiency survey – the diocesan environmental officer (Sara Emmett) has put us in touch with the diocesan-approved consultancy, 'Green Journeys'. CG had made an appointment for Wednesday 10th November. DC and JE agreed to attend.

(iii) (Land)

- Benches- CG had written pieces inviting the donation of benches in both Parish News and the Church Magazine. See also current Agenda, item 6a.
- Welcome pack received from 'Caring for God's Acre', with some extra purchases.
- St Andrew's has a 'no-mow' area in their churchyard – we will learn from their experience.
- CG circulated a map of the churchyard and is working on a management plan.

(iv) Community engagement

We discussed merits of potted compared to cut flowers. TL said potted were not necessarily any better environmentally, but would use them where they seemed appropriate.

07/09/21 #7d (Quinquennial survey)

This had happened a week later than originally planned. The architect George Chedburn was impressed with our work in the north nave. We are still awaiting his report.

6. New matters

6a. Bench in churchyard

Following the church magazine article, Norman Brade approached CG with a proposal for a bench in memory of his late wife Millie. The type of bench and potential site were discussed at the meeting, but we need to look at the churchyard. Sarah Burns had also proposed donating bench in memory of her late husband, and SB showed us a picture of the model she favoured.

ACTIONS: CG to circulate the details of the bench chosen by Norman Brade to the PCC for approval. Members of the PCC to look in churchyard to assess potential sites. We should meet with the prospective donors on site to agree mutually acceptable siting. NB. Stuart needs to approve the wording of dedication on each bench.

6b. Tree work in churchyard

Contractors for Western Power had carried out tree trimming to clear power lines in the churchyard. They pollarded the two limes at the road end of the avenue but left the rest, which is unsightly. A local tree surgeon had priced the job of pollarding the remaining 14 limes at about £6,000.

ACTION: We should not try to fund this from our own resources. Short of getting a grant for such work (who?), we are obliged to rely on MDC whose responsibility it is. CG to write.

6c. Repair café

A letter from Nikki Devitt was read out describing an international 'green' initiative for mending broken items locally through volunteer repairers, asking the church to allow an initial public exploratory meeting in the church. Also do we approve the use of the church as a venue for the repair café itself, for example during the first Saturday 'coffee and cake'? We agreed on the exploratory meeting, but had to reserve judgement on the use of the church as a repair café.

Another use of the church was raised at this point by Stuart. The police had requested the use of the church as a 'surgery' for the local community to meet community support officers. This could be done about the time of school children pick-up (Rodney Stoke PCC have agreed to something similar). The PCC agreed in principle, but we would need to negotiate on time and frequency.

6d. Carol service

The Draycott carol service had been provisionally assigned to the 19th December at 4pm by the Benefice office, but this has not yet been discussed by the PCC. Is it wise to go proceed?

ACTION: DC and others to go ahead with preparations for the moment, and the PCC to review whether to proceed nearer the time

7. Continuing matters

7a. Worship

- (i) Stuart proposed that the celebrant practice 'intincting' during communion, by dipping the bread in the wine, allowing us to receive communion in two kinds without any further Covid risk. It has been tried at St Andrews, with congregation members having the choice of intincting, or not, and no one refused. We agreed for this to go ahead.
- (ii) Mask wearing zone. This is being used very little at St Peter's – should it continue?
ACTION: we will designate just a couple of rows at the back as a mask wearing zone.
- (iii) Remembrance Sunday -14th November. Some details are still not clear. It is thought that TO was briefed by Gordon and Colette – SB will ask her.
- (iv) We discussed resuming refreshments after Sunday services. St Andrew's gave us refreshments on the 31st October, and SoSP are restarting coffee and cake on the 6th, so the time seems right. Are there are people willing to make and serve it? GD said she would, and so we agreed to go ahead next Sunday (7th November).

7b. Synod

A new course was described – 'Living in Love and Faith'. It asks – how accepting are we? Further information will be forthcoming about how this will be run.

7c. Finance update

We have had a bequest of £5,000. With this, the general fund now stands at £16,904. The fabric fund is almost unchanged at £14,557. We should be getting our 'gift aid' cheque soon.

7d. Fabric update

(all fabric matters reported elsewhere).

7e. School

CG had mailed Matt Perrett, the senior teacher at Draycott, with our ideas for rewilding the churchyard (copying the PCC), and had received an enthusiastic reply. This suggested that church members might attend an assembly where they could explain our plans in more detail. The PCC thought it appropriate for CG and Nikki Devitt to do this.

CG further described things we might do to involve the school in the rewilding activities, including: making 'kits' available for bird and bug boxes for use in the churchyard; inviting contribution of logs for wood-piles; making a nature trail. A further suggestion from the meeting was children planting spring bulbs.

ACTION: CG to mail these further ideas to Matt Perrett and Will Ewens (the head teacher), as well as accepting the invitation to attend an assembly.

7f. Supporters of St Peter's

SoSP is back in action:

- Coffee and cake is re-starting next Saturday
- SoSP will do a bottle store at the St Leonard's Christmas Fayre
- A nativity tableau is being prepared for display in the glebe field

8. Dates

Next PCC – Tuesday 4th January at 7:30 pm in the church.

The meeting closed with the Grace, which we said together.