

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

*Held on 08/11/2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Benefice Office, Cheddar*

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## ***1. Opening prayers***

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

## ***2. Apologies, welcome***

*Present:*

|                |    |               |    |            |    |
|----------------|----|---------------|----|------------|----|
| Stuart Burns   | SB | Roger Peel    | RP | Gill Dury  | GD |
| David Cheetham | DC | Tricia Lumley | TL | Pat Mullan | PM |
| John English   | JE | Thea Oliver   | TO |            |    |
| Chris Green    | CG | Barry Rose    | BR |            |    |

*Apologies:*

A warm welcome to our new/ returning members, Roger and Barry!

## ***3. Additions or amendments to agenda***

## ***4. PCC minutes from 07/09/22- confirmation of accuracy***

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed following a minor correction and signed by JE.

## ***5. Brought forward and arising matters from the minutes***

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

(raised after meeting – Thea and Gill have completed the 'community' questionnaire now)

16/02/22 #6d (Rewilding the churchyard). The section left un-mown over the summer has now been cut back and mowings removed (a lot of work!). Thanks to Richard Oliver, Tricia Lumley and Jeff Monks for their part – NB. Mendip District Council did a final cut themselves, cleared by CG. NB. We carried out a botanical survey in the summer so we hope to see a difference next year when we repeat it.

**ACTION:** CG proposed to buy more nest boxes to put up – about £70. This was agreed.

30/05/22 #6d (Magazine price – proposal to increase to £6 p.a.). This is now official.

01/08/22 #6d (Quinquennial Survey – works progress).

(b. possible woodworm infestation) Cleaners have avoided cleaning under this section as instructed but it is too early to tell whether the infestation is active. Monitor.

(c. vestry roof). Stuart has asked the St Andrew's builder but he has not responded yet.

(d. PAT testing). Rodney Stoke not intending to do this soon. CG has not yet found an electrician who is able and willing to do ours.

01/08/22 #6e (Actions following Archdeacon's inspection). a. Gordon Jeff doesn't know where the Terrier is. b. Keys – JE will give GD his church safe key as she needs it regularly.

01/08/22 #7f (Resetting supports for chains around area for cremated remains). This has been done

09/09/22 #6a Mitigating energy price rises.

Our gas bill has gone up from £43 to £73 per month. We don't know what the electricity prices will be and are in the process of switching from EDF to Pozitive, the chosen supplier following our diocesan recommended review.

We are experimenting with different seating arrangements in church to minimise discomfort from cold, and last week moved the clergy and choir down the nave away from the draughty crossing. However the congregation is now further from the altar (and organ) and some are nearer the back (also draughty). Also it may be a bit crowded.

We discussed alternatives (e.g. nave altar) then decided to compromise and move all seating forward a bit, whilst still keeping clear of the crossing. To be kept under review.

Cheddar is still waiting for a demonstration of ceramic heaters – we will be kept informed.

09/09/22 #6b Deanery choral service. This happened, though the congregation was small.

09/09/22 #6c Sing for Ukraine. Total raised stands at £638.50 – and with Gift Aid will be nearly £800. DC proposed we send £900. This was agreed. NB. St Andrew's are planning their own event but intending to disburse the funds locally (as government funding will soon cease). This was a good idea but too difficult for us to implement this time.

We thanked Barry and David for an excellent and well organised occasion.

09/09/22 #6d Thank you service. Invitations have gone out – we think there may be 30 or 40 (some cannot due to alternative events). TO suggested a Christmas card from the PCC. Plan next week.

## **6. Continuing matters**

### **6a. Christmas planning**

Village Carol Service - 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Needs to be go into Parish News – also carol singing in Strawberry Special on the 11th at 6pm.

*ACTION:* TO will submit these for publication. These services plus all other Christmas ones (and the Advent Taizé service on the 27<sup>th</sup> November) will go in the church magazine.

Communal Christmas Card in church – GD has this in hand

### **6b. Charging for heating and lighting**

DC – For weddings and funerals we are only allowed to charge for heating, so in the summer there will be no charges.

Proposed that charge be increased from £30 to £40 per event (in line with our other churches). We discussed possible exemptions – events already organised (such as Samm's children's party) should not be charged. *ACTION:* CG to communicate this to Samm (NB. she is PTA secretary).

We would like Christmas lights up on the avenue – not costly. Thanks, Thea and Richard!

Barry is contributing £1,350 specifically for heating St Peter's (with Gift Aid, about £1,700), so we must not be too worried about additional legitimate usage. Thank you, Barry.

#### **6c. Electoral Roll**

The list is now up in church – NB. Names only. Addresses not necessary– the list is for local people to check if they are on, and they can approach any church officer if they want to be added.

#### **d. Cheddar Valley Window Wanderland**

We are happy for the proposed workshop (for the Cheddar Arts festival) to go ahead in the church, so long as we can agree a date when it is not in use – also they should take precautions not to create mess. We don't have suitable windows in church for us to be on the 'Window Wanderland' ourselves  
*ACTION*: CG to let Samm know

#### **e. Diocesan Finance Conversation over Zoom**

(Tabled by CG) No-one else seemed to have been circulated about this although it should have gone to clergy, secretaries and treasurers (and it was open to anyone on the PCC). As time was short this would be pursued outside the meeting.

### **7. Continuing matters**

#### **7a. Worship**

(nothing further).

#### **7b. Synod**

Deanery Synod met at Axbridge on 13<sup>th</sup> October but Thea and Stuart were away.

#### **7c. Finance update**

Balances were £19,424.88 for the General Fund, and £13,892.40 for the Fabric Fund.

#### **7d. Fabric update**

Major churchyard task at present is clearing leaves- CG calling for assistance. TL may be able to help – CG will circulate the Draycott Church Maintenance Group.

#### **7e. School**

TO is leading the assembly on Remembrance.

Children are still coming to church for assemblies – they should be aware of our heating policies.

SB reported that Ruth Motion's contracted hours have been increased to 3 days a week (Monday to Wednesday) following extra funding from the churches in Cheddar. Ruth and Stuart have been leading whole school assemblies at 8:45 in St Andrew's church.

Wessex Learning Trust has a board of trustees for all our schools. They have space for two or three new members to represent church schools (so should be C of E members). SB has been asked for help to find candidates, and is passing this on at each of the benefice PCCs for volunteers.

#### **7f. Supporters of St Peter's**

The PTAF wreath making workshop will take place on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> December Coffee and Cake coincides with the Start of Advent Festival and we will also hold soup lunch, raising funds to share between the CSC, the Children's Society and St Peter's. Also SoSP will be on hand on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December between 11am and 1pm for any visitors who would like to see the recycled trees.

Coffee and Cakes will not be taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**8.     *Dates***

Next PCC is 10<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm in the church office.

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