



Minutes of the meeting of the United Church Council Held on Monday 10 July 2017

Present: David Carruthers, Buzz Coster, Jane Earl, David Hibbert, Sue Hillier, Alex Huzzey, Robert Kay, John Payne, June Poppleton, John Rhodes, Revd Deborah Snowball

In attendance: Helen Swain

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Vice Chair, John Rhodes.

- 1) John opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** were received from: Dorothy Denzer, David Edney, Revd Richard Lowson, Darryl Sharp, Hilary Stevenson, Revd Scott Talbott, David Warren.
- 3) **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2017**
The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
- 4) **Matters arising**
 - a) LEP Constitution: The UCC had previously been working towards implementing the model constitution for a Single Congregation LEP. Deborah reported that another model constitution may suit St Mary's better and will review this. **Action: DJS**
 - b) Bank (item 8): David Gilbert had calculated that approximately £7,000 had been lost as a result of the issues with HSBC earlier in the year. John Rhodes is writing to HSBC with a view to negotiating a better offer of compensation.
 - c) Thy Kingdom Come (item 14): Deborah reported that most of the planned events for this initiative had had to be cancelled which had been disappointing.
- 5) **Safeguarding**
 - a) The minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding team held on 3 July 2017 had been circulated.
 - b) Helen Swain and Mary Weatherill had approached a number of people to become champions (formerly called 'advocates') but had not yet received any responses.
 - c) Photographs of Helen and Mary will be added to posters for display in the north porch, Church Centre and Cloisters Hall.
 - d) It was noted that references are required as part of DBS checks and for some people these will need to be obtained retrospectively. Section heads have been asked to provide lists of their teams so that references can be requested.
 - e) Helen was thanked for her work.
- 6) **Domestic abuse**
 - a) It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Diocesan guidelines and policy statement on domestic abuse.
 - b) It was suggested that a suitable professional person be invited to address church members on this subject.
- 7) **Correspondence**

Horse chestnut tree in the churchyard: At the beginning of June TRDC had taken urgent action to remove this tree which was considered imminently dangerous. Deborah had notified the Diocese who confirmed that this could be considered as having been undertaken under the faculty approved in 2009.
- 8) **Reports of sub-committees**
 - a) **Stewardship & Finance committee (19 June 2017)**
There were no matters arising from this committee.

b) Fabric & Churchyard committee (12 June 2017)

- i) It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Health & Safety policy for a further year (to January 2018)
- ii) Radio antenna in tower: Plans had been received and a number of questions remained to be answered. The F&C committee will seek answers.
 - Clarification was required as to how church members would be able to access the roof.
 - The safety of radio waves was a concern.
 - Concern was expressed at reports that the equipment is liable to generate considerable heat. It would probably need to be located high up in the tower. The fire risk was not known.
 - As the company will not have a key to the tower, the amount of notice to St Mary's when access to the tower is required in order to meet service level agreements needed to be confirmed.
 - The insurance company's view on the installation of masts is to be sought.
- iii) A quote for £840+VAT had been received to replace the hot water heater in the kitchen.
- iv) A quote for £3,000 had been received to fit edging strips to all the pews. It was agreed not to proceed with this work.
- v) Security: Gary Pidgeon is looking at options for a roof alarm.
- vi) Garden of Remembrance: Deborah has identified the area to the north of the tower as the most suitable location for a new Garden of Remembrance. This will create 225 plots. Only loose ashes will be interred and no plaques will be permitted. This project was agreed in principle. Deborah will proceed to get costings from a stonemason.
- vii) External lighting: A quote of £720+VAT had been received from Instalec for the installation of replacement LED flood lights on the porch roof and outside the Church Centre. This was approved.

c) Community & Outreach committee (6 June 2017)

There were no matters arising from this committee.

9) Financial report

Present financial situation:

	1/7/17
Current & Deposit	£40,000
Epworth (Myers bequest)	£165,000
Church Centre	£26,000

Letters will be sent to people who have not yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme to remind them of this preferred option for regular donors. Letters will also be sent to people whose standing orders had failed due to the issues with HSBC.

10) Inclusive Church/OneBodyOneFaith

The Council split into small discussion groups to talk about this issue of inclusivity. It was agreed that this should be explored further. Initially, an article in LINK will outline the implications of signing up to one or both of these organisations, inviting members of the congregation to talk to either Deborah or John Rhodes if they have any further questions and/or reservations.

11) Back to Church Sunday/Big Welcome (Sunday 24 September 2017)

David Carruthers and Darryl Sharp continue to work on this project and requested further assistance with promotion of this and other activities that comprise the Season of Welcome. Jane Earl offered to help.

12) Any other business

Deborah welcomed Alex Huzzey to his first meeting and congratulated him on his successful recommendation for training for ordained ministry. The Council echoed the congratulations.

13) Items to be publicised:

- a) Domestic abuse policy
- b) Appointment of Helen Swain as Safeguarding Officer

- c) Back to Church Sunday and Season of Welcome
- d) Approval of Health & Safety policy
- e) External lighting works

14) Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the UCC will be on Monday 11 September 2017.

Deborah is hosting a Summer Social for the UCC on 12 August.

The meeting ended with the Grace.