**PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL TONBRIDGE**

**MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021**

**FOLLOWING SECTION 11 MEETING ON ZOOM AT 8.30 pm.**

PRESENT: David Balcombe; Jean Bowring; Brian Buck; Adam Calvert *(Churchwarden)*; Dianne Dartnell; Minnie Fraser-Allen; Robert Kidson; Patricia King; Felicity Layton; Helen Longley; Alison Minton; Sally Musson; Les Naylor *(Treasurer)*; David Robins *(PCC Secretary);* Mike Seaman; Ray Tanner;Paul White *(Churchwarden)*.

Adam Calvert in the chair.

Apologies for absence: Maxine Smith

1. CORRESPONDENCE.

There was none.

2. FINANCE and TREASURER’S REPORT

(i) Les Naylor had sent round income/expenditure and funds accounts to the end of March. He said there were slight adjustments to these which he would forward for these minutes.

(ii) He was grateful for several responses to his appeal for funds during the on-line service, and said he would put up-dated information on the parish website.

(iii) He said that regular donors would receive a letter of thanks summarising their donations made over the year with a note of tax recovered via Gift Aid..

(iv) Felicity Layton thanked the treasurer for providing a breakdown of the numbers of donors over 2019 and 2020. In summary, the number of regular donors had decreased by 11 from 2019 to 2020, with a consequent drop in income from £207,000 in 2019 to £196,000 in 2020. Les Naylor emphasised how important it is to continue to attract new, regular donors.

(v) In response to a question the treasurer agreed to investigate the possibility of closing dormant fund accounts.

(vi) The annual report and accounts for 2020 had been circulated, and the following resolution was proposed by Brian Buck and seconded by David Balcombe:

***This PCC approves the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 and authorises the treasurer to sign them as approved.***

3. SAFEGUARDING.

There was nothing to add.

4. BISHOP’S DISPENSATION TO SUSPEND SERVICES IN CHURCH

Paul White announced that, in response to the PCC’s resolution of 21 March 2021 requesting the Bishop’s dispensation to suspend services in church until the end of May 2021, the Bishop of Rochester had granted this dispensation until the end of April 2021.

Adam Calvert pointed out that the PCC had approved a plan for gradual re-opening until the end of April 2021, and that plans for May and beyond needed to be developed. Sally Musson expressed thoughts on increasing the level of ambition in reopening plans and Helen Longley reflected on the significance of Holy Communion services for parishioners. It was noted that some churches in the area were more advanced in their provision. It was noted that the wardens would discuss this with the Associate Vicar.

Jeremy King reported that some of the AV equipment required for stage 1 of the upgrading had arrived and would be installed as soon as possible.

5. STAFFING MATTERS.

There was nothing to add.

6. MAG MATTERS.

The Council had considered the paper ‘Options for funding Mission Partners’ (appendix), which set out the reasons for reconsidering the number of mission partners in order to reduce the ‘thinness’ of the tithe spread. MAG’s recommendation that the number of partners be reduced by one, by the Parish Church replacing Hope for Justice by the Langham Partnership was considered. David Balcombe requested time for the leadership team to think this through. It was agreed that the May 2021 contributions would be paid to mission partners in the normal way.

Proposed by Jeremy King and seconded by Les Naylor, the Council passed the following resolution unanimously:

***This PCC notes the report from MAG on Options for Funding Mission Partners and asks that the leadership team of St Peter & St Paul considers replacing Hope for Justice by the Langham Partnership as its mission partner.***

7. APCM

David Robins asked members to let him know if they intended to stand down from PCC membership at the APCM on 26 May 2021. Minnie Fraser-Allen had already indicated her wish to do so. Adam Calvert thanked Minnie for her much-appreciated contribution to the council. (Mike Seaman subsequently said that he would not stand again.)

8. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING ON MONDAY 22 MARCH 2021.

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the council.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM 8.

Item 13 (ii): David Balcombe reported that he and Ray Tanner had spoken to the new diocesan Property Director, Stephen Hoad, about the Vicarage. They were told that the boundary line for the land earmarked for development would be pegged out in the near future. It was likely that the land would go out for sale by tender soon. The Diocese is looking for a new architect for the extension to the Vicarage.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Following the Section 11 meeting, the Secretary was thanked for completing Form 34 in preparation for its despatch to the patron, the Bishop and the Diocesan Registrar.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY.

No items were identified as confidential.

Adam Calvert closed the meeting in prayer at 9.20 pm.