

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 PM ON

THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2022

The meeting opened with prayer

Present:

Rev Audrey Simpson, Graham Collins, David Loader, Shirley Dumper, David Dumper, Janet Mee, Sue Rimmer, Penny Brain, Alan Cumming, Sheila Brown, Gillian Edwards, Lim Ho, Mike Ledgard, Adrienne Peacop, Kath Fraser

Apologies

Colette Inman, Evelyn Ho

1] PROPOSED CONFIRMATION OF PAUL COOK IN THE SERVICE THIS SUNDAY 24TH JULY

The Church Council formally needs to approve this before Audrey can bring Paul into confirmation and membership in her last service this Sunday morning.

Paul has been baptised and has been attending Alcester Methodist Church on a regular basis. Over the last 18 months he has felt a calling to attend a church. Paul lives in Alcester.

He was keen to become a member of Alcester MC, however for a variety of genuine reasons there has been delays in arranging this at Alcester MC, including the unfortunate illness and consequent time off work by the regular minister at Alcester.

Paul is keen to progress with his plans and became frustrated with the delays etc at Alcester.

He has been attending our Church on a regular basis for past 6/7 weeks. Several people have got to know him a little and Audrey has had positive meetings and discussions with Paul to ensure he is 'ready' for confirmation. Importantly Audrey has had discussions with the minister at Alcester MC whom gives the approval and blessings for Paul to be confirmed at Stratford.

Paul seems keen to hopefully take on some active roles in the maintenance and running of the Church. We will need to guide him through the systems, committees and the internal workings etc of the Church

The Church Council voted unanimously for Audrey to bring Paul Cook to be confirmed and taken into membership in the morning service on Sunday July 24th.

2] POSSIBLE APPLICATION BY HENLEY CHURCH UNDER THE GREEN SHOOTS COMMUNITY FUND

Item referred to us by Trevor Pethick—Circuit Steward

For information at this stage, particularly as Henley Church will become a cluster of our Church as from September. The aim to install solar panels on the south facing roof of the Church.

Warwickshire County Council in June released a 100% grant programme called the 'Green Shoots Community Fund' which is designed to completely fund suitable and eligible Eco Projects between a value of 5k & 25k.

Lim gave us additional details of the scheme and added that several years ago that Stratford Energy Solutions stated that installing solar panels on the south facing roof was deemed to be a viable project. The energy bill at Henley is currently high.

Given the attractive criteria of the Grant programme a large number of applications are expected.

Audrey showed us details of the on line application process, this has to be completed and submitted by 19th September 2022. Whilst the application form looks relatively straightforward Janet Mee kindly offered to assist if required. At work she has valuable experience with such processes and forms.

Henley Library uses the Church and the Church and the Library are 'interdependent' upon each other for 'future viability'.

We agreed that the potential application should have a good chance of success, particularly given the community use of the Church by the library and the Church.

Rev Jim Dobson will chair the Henley Church Council meeting on Sunday 31st July when decisions will be made on progressing the prospective application. Although we are not experts we did not think that planning should be an issue.

3] DISCUSSIONS ON ROLES OF CHURCH STEWARDS AND SUNDAY STEWARDS

There are now only 4 Church Stewards at Stratford. There are also 2 Church Stewards at Henley.

As we enter into a cluster with Henley the roles of 6 stewards may need to be reviewed. For example will the Stratford Church Stewards remain solely responsible for Stratford and will the Henley Church Stewards remain solely for Henley? Or will there some crossover and 'specialisms' on the individual roles?

Kath has resigned as Church Steward but has taken on the important role and responsibility of opening up the Church and preparing for worship on a Sunday morning.

Kath is keen to create a group of people whom can act as 'Sunday Stewards' or Worship Stewards' to support the Church Stewards, such roles would include Door Stewards, Coffee Stewards, Vestry Stewards etc. Gillian Edwards added this is a great idea but that we are struggling to fill existing roles within the Church. Penny is appealing in the Church service on this Sunday Service 24th July for more general volunteers. We felt that the general role of Sunday or Worship Stewards is a good idea to progress and to take forward.

Shirley added that Maureen Beckett continues to organize the door stewards rota and that she has had a few offers of additional help.

We are conscious of the workload and responsibilities of the Church Steward role. Penny stated that she has found the Methodist Church in Britain website very helpful in identifying the roles and responsibilities of a Church Steward.

The Church Stewards are meeting once a month.

4] FUTURE STRUCTURE OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

The general conversation turned to start a discussion on the existing structure of the Church. Alan, David Loader and Graham felt that this is now an ideal time to review the structure as we come out of Covid {hopefully!} and with the appointment of Deacon Jane. Alan added that the Church Reporting and Administration Structure has not changed significantly for 30 years.

The three of us will arrange a meeting and come back to the Church Council with a proposal for discussion. Clearly this will be something to develop as we go forward with the ministry of Deacon

Jane. It will not be straightforward and a Church Steward Representative will be involved after the group of three have had their initial meeting. A Church Leadership Team has been looked at before but did not get off the ground.

5] PROGRESS FOLLOWING THE RECENT INTRUDER

Graham reported:

A] Colette and Graham are seeing Jason Keyte from Paul Hunt Electrical to review and add exterior lighting close to CCTV Cameras on Tuesday 26th July

B] Penny, Shirley and Graham are visiting Kenilworth Church on Wednesday 27th July on a factfinding mission to look at their key fob security system

C] Graham [& hopefully +1 or 2] are meeting with Lola-- Holy Trinity Operations Manager and 2 of her colleagues on Friday 29th July to discuss common concerns, issues and maybe lobby councillors etc for improved lighting etc. Conscious that Holy Trinity have 'influence' in the town

THANKS TO AUDREY

At this additional Church Council Meeting we all once again expressed our grateful thanks to Audrey for her support and professionalism in the last 7 years

The meeting closed with Prayer at 8.25 pm

Graham Collins

Deputising for Colette

22nd July 2022