

## BIRSTALL & WANLIP PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 11 September, 2013 at 7.30pm at Wanlip

**Present:** Revd V Jupp (Chairman), Mr John Ward, Mr Tony Bloxam, Mrs Mary Bruce, Mrs Janet Waters, Mrs Beryl McHugh, Mr Alastair McHugh, Mr Peter Grange, Mrs Lesley Walton, Mrs Rose Parrott, Mrs Rita Richards, Mrs Marion Tegg, Mrs Elaine White, Mrs Nicky wills, Mrs Julie Ward, Mrs Gill Pope. Mr Andrew Shephard (for agenda item 1.)

**Apologies:** Alan Lewin (treasurer), Mr Bert Tegg, Miss Sandra Robinson, Mrs Leigh Reid.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

#### 1. **Hall project**

Revd Jupp introduced Mr Andrew Shephard, who had been invited to the meeting to update the members regarding the proposal for an extension to St James' church. Mr Shephard explained that pre-planning meetings had been held with the senior planning officer (SPO) from Charnwood council and two councillors from the planning committee of Birstall Parish Council. Unfortunately, the SPO had indicated that she, personally, would not approve the plans, mainly because of the need to remove the mature lime trees and part of the historic brick wall in what is a conservation area. The parish councillors had appeared to be in favour of the proposal as they thought that the benefits to the village would be considerable. Mr Shephard said that the cost of putting in the planning application in the first instance would be £15,000 in total, which included the fees of all professionals involved. There is also no certainty that the application would get to the full planning committee if the SPO vetoed it in the first instance. Revd Jupp said that members of the PCC should consider whether or not to proceed with the application. He thanked Mr Shephard for his support in the matter and Mr Shephard left the meeting.

The matter was then discussed and various points raised including:

- whether it would be ethical to spend the £15,000 when we struggle to pay the parish share
- whether it would be feasible to construct a wooden building for much cheaper outlay
- the feasibility of purchasing a nearby building to convert for our use
- to have removable pews in St James church to enable functions to be held inside the church.

Revd Jupp asked the members to individually consider the proposal to go ahead with the planning application and the item will be discussed again at the next PCC meeting in November.

#### 2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Item 11 should read .....had prepared the paper **for the Lent course**. Subject to this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

3. **Matters arising**

None

4. **Finance**

The treasurer was not present at the meeting but had indicated that there was nothing significant to report since the last quarter.

5. **Bid Group**

Mrs Janet Waters reported that the group are at the stage of completing the appropriate forms to apply to the Growth Fund at the next round of grants. The group will meet again with Luke Fogg in two weeks' time and will then be ready to share it widely in order to apply to the November round of funding. Bert Tegg has written to various people for additional funds and the group feel very positive about the possibility of receiving a grant.

6. **Reports in brief**

- (i) Hospitality: Lesley Walton reported that a dishwasher and a hostess trolley has been purchased for the Howard Room kitchen. The next purchase will be an oven hob. A decision regarding the flooring will be made on completion of the fitting out of the kitchen. It was suggested that a sweeping broom and a bigger bin should also be provided.
- (ii) Youth and community: There will be a full report for the next meeting. Baptisms have been held recently at Birstall and Wanlip and it was hoped to invite the parents to come together as a group. The Welcome to the Lord's table course is starting again and work is going on in the schools.
- (iii) Social Committee: Sandra Robinson was on holiday but had circulated a report from the last meeting to members prior to this meeting. Forthcoming events include a Barn Dance, Bring & Share lunch, Beer and Skittles evening, and a Quiz afternoon.
- (iv) Music & Worship: No meeting since last PCC

7. **Buildings**

Birstall:

- (i) Tony Bloxam reported that there are problems regarding the repair of the ceiling at St James but he is awaiting feedback from a plasterer to see whether he thinks he is able to match the surrounding area. Work is still ongoing in the kitchen and about £200 worth of electrical work needs to be done. It is also hoped to provide further cupboard space but the work is coming in within the budget of £1,100.
- (ii) The question as to what is happening regarding two screens that were originally purchased for the Sunday school, but which were deemed unsuitable, was raised and Rose Parrott said that the Sunday school would like at least one of them in order to display work done by the children. They were also experiencing problems when the church door was opened and the wind blew the leaflets from the table into the children's area and the

suggestion was made that a free-standing leaflet stand may help to solve the problem.

- (iii) Reading Room: Revd Jupp reported that this matter is now completed and the work done by Alan Chapman in this regard should be acknowledged in some way.

Wanlip:

- (i) John Ward reported that a new fire door is in place in the community rooms, funded by the Charnwood Disability Forum. Severn Trent are to begin some environmental work in the near future, which they will fund. Two waste butts have to be provided which will take up space on the car park.
- (ii) Revd Jupp said that he was looking at the change in the demographic at Wanlip and consequently may be starting a morning service at Wanlip. Thinking ahead, he would like the All Together service that is held on the first Sunday of the month at Birstall to be repeated in some form on the second Sunday of the month at Wanlip. This may be feasible when we get another curate next year.

**8. Deanery**

No meeting has been held since the last PCC,

**9. Churches together**

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated to members and it was pointed out that at item 6 £400 should read £4,000. Tony Bloxam reported that a suggestion had been made at the last meeting that each church should contribute £70 towards expenses and the PCC members agreed unanimously to support this suggestion. It is also hoped to hold a Watch night service.

**10. Any other business**

- (i) Churchyard management: Lesley Walton had circulated a paper to members in which various proposals for the maintenance of the churchyard at St James were made. After discussion, when some points of the proposals were opposed, it was agreed that Lesley should continue to consult with Andrew Quigley, Diocesan Environmental Officer and Revd Jupp will give some thought to the problems highlighted in Lesley's report.
- (ii) Chancel repair liability: John Ward is awaiting a reply from the National Archive on a final query but he is quite confident that we do not have a liability in this respect.
- (iii) Ministry of flowers: Mrs Rose Parrott put forward an idea she had had in conjunction with Mrs Sylvia Simes, that individuals should be allowed to choose flowers for special occasions and pay the flower team. It was suggested that a list of dates be provided and people can indicate when they would like flowers provided and the theme they would like. The income would boost the flower fund, which is depleted because fewer people are getting married in church. The suggestion was welcomed by the members and agreed unanimously.

11. **Correspondence**

- (i) A letter has been received from Mrs Mary Belton resigning from the PCC and as deputy church warden at Wanlip. Revd Jupp has also received a letter from Mr Geoff Heath offering his resignation as covenant secretary. Revd Jupp has replied to both, thanking them for their services and inviting them to the Songs of Praise service on 29 September, which will be followed by a faith supper.
- (ii) A letter has been received from Jelson Limited regarding repairs to the pumping station that serves our property in Wanlip. The church is liable for a proportion of this cost and an invoice will follow in due course.

12. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 November 2013 at 7.30pm at St James the Great.

**Dates of future meeting**

**PCC  
2013**

13 November (St James)

**2014**

22 January (Wanlip)

12 March (St James)

**APCM 2 April 2014 (St James)**

**F&S (church office)  
2013**

29 October

**2014**

7 January

25 February