

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe  
Minutes of the P.C.C. meeting held on  
11th October, 2011 at the Rectory

Those present: Revd. Erwin Lammens; Glyn Stanway; Sue Jones; Joan Barratt; Rick Cawley; Lynne Horner; Shirley Forsgate; Graham Wadley; Peter Terry; Graeme Martin; Maureen Smith; Anne Horner; Joy Heasman; Marika Footring; Maureen Reynold and Sylvia Usher.

Apologies were received from Eric and Mary Jakens and Diana Norris.

The Chairman, (Peter Terry), opened the meeting at 19.30 and asked the Rector to lead councillors in prayer. This was followed by a short reading and a moment of silence while council members thought about relatives and friends who had died.

Minute 2011/69 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2011.

After several small amendments the minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Rector.

Minute 2011/70 Matters arising  
From minute 2011/55(3)

There had been no further communication from Wivenhoe Town Council with regard to burial plots in the cemetery. Peter Terry expressed his intention to contact the Council (W.T.C.) until a satisfactory answer is achieved.

Minute 2011/71 Correspondence

Letters of thanks for Harvest Gifts had been received from Doreen Hamilton, David Cole, Margaret Barker, Phileda Joel, Zoe Tweed and Joy Wilderspin on behalf of her mother Grace Robinson. The Rector had also received a letter from Beacon House thanking the congregation for the articles donated to them through Max Guy.

Minute 2011/72 Finance

The Treasurer reported further to her written report submitted to the council before the meeting. She was pleased to report that the church finances are in a healthier position than in previous months. However, she concludes on a note of caution, that the P.C.C. should maintain strict controls on expenditure and that any one who gives any donation should be encouraged to use a Gift Aid envelope and sign the form on the front as the tax recovery from H.M.R.C. is of substantial benefit to us. Make sure that there are plenty of envelopes in the pews.

A legacy of £1,000 had been received from the Will of Nancy Mahy, which had no specific restriction on use. Lynne suggested that this should be put towards a project rather than put in to the General Fund.

Minute 2011/73 Church Building

Feasibility Study and Grant Application

It has been agreed that three quotes should be obtained for the feasibility study. Sue Jones has agreed to contact Ben Downie and Tim Venn who have agreed to have an initial look at our requirements without charge.

Minute 2011/74 Fabric Report

- a) Toilets. The work has been completed and the toilets are now in use.
- b) Windows there is still some work to do here. Eric Jakens will follow this up.
- c) Cupboards at West entrance. The estimated cost of this work if done by Charles Crocker £7000 + V.A.T. (£8400). In view of this larger sum Rick Cawley suggested that we should obtain three estimates. Maureen Reynolds agreed to contact Gary Jobber and Stuart Harris to obtain these. Lynne Horner proposed, seconded by Joan Barratt and unanimously agreed by the meeting that the £1000 legacy from Nancy Mahy should be used for this project.
- d) Permission was sought and given for Daniel Marsden to remove one of the spare pews to his workshop in order to make the visitors table.
- e) There will be a ceremony on 18th October 2011 to "Lay Up" the Normandy Veterans, Colchester & District Branch, standard. A faculty will be obtained as soon as possible in order that the bracket to hold the standard can be fixed to the wall.

Minute 2011/75 Reports of organisations

Reports had been submitted and circulated to council members from Fundraising Committee; Catering Committee, Worship and Vision Group; Churches Together; Colchester Deanery and F.O.S.M.

There were no comments or questions about these reports.

Minute 2011/76 Church Ale and Gift Weekend

Erwin said that this had been a wonderful weekend for St. Mary's in Wivenhoe. It made the church the centre of activity in the town. Erwin thanked Marika for the efficient way in which she had organised this big event. The Gift weekend had produced £2,788.50 which was less than the Treasurer had budgeted for. However £680 of Gift Aid is still to be collected and this will help to make up the shortfall.

Minute 2011/77 Children's Ministry

From February 2012 the Sunday Club, which meets in the Kitchen of Dirk and Adele Patterson, will meet in church on the second, third and fourth Sunday in the month. We do need to look for another venue. Jan Marks has volunteered to act as co-ordinator. There are three leaders at the moment and we will need at least six. These will need to be C.R.B. checked. Erwin will speak to Max Guy about this.

Minute 2011/78 Communication

At the recent meeting this group discussed the Welcome Pack which Lynne Horner is working on at the moment. This consists of a pack of loose sheets which can be added to as new information arises.

A new cover is being drawn for Tidings by Hilary Wadley  
The church notice board needs tidying.

Minute 2011/79 Spirituality

a) The final events for Bible Year

i) 14.10.2011 Talk by Dr. Joan Taylor --What is the Bible?

ii) 22nd & 23rd 10.2011 Exhibition of school children's work.

iii) 23.10.2011 Bible Sunday Matins with readings from the King James Bible

b) The Passion Play -The workshop on 5.11.2011 is being advertised.

Minute 2011/79 Students attending Service on 06.11.2011

Volunteers are needed to collect the students from the University; prepare, serve and eat lunch with them and then return them to the campus. They need to be encouraged to come back to our church for other occasions such as a Taize service.

Minute 2011/80 Any other business

a) The Dyson vacuum cleaner has been with the repairer for six weeks. Joan Barratt has tried on several occasions to contact him but there is no reply on either his land line or mobile telephone. Lynne Horner will visit Brightlingsea in the near future and will try to make contact. If there is no response to this a letter should be sent from the P.C.C. The church has been given a new small Hoover but unfortunately this is not powerful enough for church cleaning.

b) Open Gardens will be on 19th and 20th May in 2012.

c) Rosemary Murchie is no longer able to Host the Lent Lunch. She is willing to help with the catering but a new host is needed.

d) The husband of Gillian Wallis died about three years ago and she would like a permanent reminder of him in the churchyard. Anne Horner and Graeme Martin suggested planting spring bulbs in a suitable position where they would not be mown down by the grass cutters.

e) It was requested that the children's toys could be set out earlier (if possible on Saturday) in order that they were arranged more attractively to encourage the children to play with them.

f) Could the location of cleaning materials and spare toilet rolls be publicised in the Admin. file to make it easier for those who need to use them?.

g) We have been given 10 "Wedding Packs" by the Diocese. They are well presented and cost £6 each. It was agreed to purchase a few more packs in order that each couple who has booked a wedding in the near future is able to have a pack.

H) St. Mary's has been invited to Broomgrove Infants school on 20th October 2011 in order to present St Mary's to the parents.

- i) It was proposed that the carpet should be cleaned either after the Christmas Fair or the Christmas services.
- j) Graeme Martin proposed that our thanks should be recorded to Lynne Horner for the help she gave to the performers and organisers of the Jazz Concert.

There being no further business Peter asked the Rector to close the meeting at 21.00.

Erwin thanked all present for the lively discussion which had taken place during the meeting and also thanked all those who volunteer for all the activities which take place in the church.

He then closed the meeting with the Grace.