

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe  
Minutes of the P.C.C. meeting held on  
13th September, 2011 at the Rectory,

Those present: Revd. Erwin Lammens, Eric Jakens, Joan Barratt, Rick Cawley, Lynne Horner, Shirley Forsgate, Peter Terry, Mary Jakens, Maureen Smith, Anne Horner, Diana Norris, Marika Footring, Maureen Reynolds and Sylvia Usher.

Apologies were received from Glyn Stanway, Sue Jones, Nick Gustard, Graham Wadley and Graeme Martin.

Peter Terry (Lay Chairman) opened the meeting at 19.35 and asked the Rector to lead the council in prayer. These prayers were written by the Rector and were relevant to the items in the agenda.

Minute 2011/56 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July, 2011

The following amendments were made to the minutes  
1. at min. 2011/45. the date was changed from 13th to 14th  
2. at min. 2011/52 delete "and share" and alter "a variety of activities" to "and support of a local good cause"  
3. at min. 2011/55 (item 8) "on our web page "altered to "on the front page"

Minute 2011/57 Correspondence

1. A letter had been received from New Hall School, Chelmsford with an invitation to their open morning on 24/09/2011 and 7/05/2012.
2. A letter had been received from Alan Massey (Chair of F.O.S.M.) advising the P.C.C. of the agreement of F.O.S.M. to a contribution of £5,000 towards the permanent repair of the toilet.
3. From Min. 2011/55 (3) A reply had been received from Wivenhoe Town Council in answer to the letter sent to them referring to the availability of burial plots in the cemetery. The Lay Chairman read their reply and a letter which he had written asking for further details of the number of plots remaining and the future arrangements for the interment of Wivenhoe people in the future, to the P.C.C. No reply to this letter has been received so far.

Minute 2011/58 Finance

The Treasurer reported that during August we had an income of 69% of expected expenditure.

She has contacted two churches who use Pay-pal for donation through electronic giving. Neither had received any gifts from this source.

Lynne has purchased a lockable box for donations and income from the sale of items such as postcards and leaflets

Minute 2011/59 Charitable Giving (inc. Harvest and Christmas)

Maureen Smith reported and, after discussion, the following charity donations were agreed: Harvest -- The Night Shelter and the Soup Run. Christmas -- The Barnabas Fund, Colchester Woman's Refuge (Tendring area), Whizz Kids.

[Marika Footring suggested that we should support one charity only at Christmas, as the sum of money can be very small for some charities. However, it was pointed out that we have traditionally had an international, a national and a local charity, and donors are then given the opportunity to choose which charity they prefer their donation to be given to.]

Minute 2011/60 Fabric

Eric Jakens reported

1. Bats. A report has been received from the Natural England with reference to bats in our church. There is evidence that we have had bats roosting in St. Mary's at some time but that is not in a position which could affect any future work in the church.

2. Windows. The bars at the windows have been replaced and Trinity windows are making the guards which are to be replaced.

3. Toilets. Work will be started after the Ale weekend.

4. Plaques. There is some delay in making the wooden mounts.

5. Normandy Veterans Standard. The faculty for this is being prepared ready for submission., probably in October.

6. Visitors Table. Daniel Marsden will make a long, thin table from one of the redundant pews.

Minute 2011/61 Church Building Committee

This committee met about ten days ago and looked at options for refurbishment/extension inside and outside the church building. They have no recommendations at this time but suggest that a feasibility study is crucial. This would cost approx. £1600. Grants are available but in order to qualify for this we need to pay our Family Purse in full, therefore, the Treasurer suggests that we use some of our reserve and ask Simon Marks, an architect who has worked with us on several occasions and who knows our church well, to carry out this study.

It was proposed by Sylvia Usher, seconded by Maureen Reynolds and unanimously agreed by the meeting that we should commission a feasibility study with Simon Marks.

In the mean time Erwin will contact other churches who have had extensions built, to find out the cost of the study and the architects fees. It was also agreed that he will make enquiries about a grant.

Minute 2011/62 Reports of Committees

1. Catering. Help is needed with moving the pews and tables for the Harvest lunch.

2. Worship Vision Group This group has discussed our Pattern of Worship. Graham Wadley has offered to start a small singing group for children, such as Treble Voices. This will start on 02/2012.

3. F.O.S.M. Peter Kennedy had expressed surprise at the comment in the Editorial of Wivenhoe News, stating that Wivenhoe News was no longer part of F.O.S.M. Maureen Smith commented that F.O.S.M. is aware that it does not contribute to Wivenhoe News but F.O.S.M. is still the publisher. The treasurer said that this is a financial issue and Wiv.News is covered by F.O.S.M. insurance. Alan Massey, Reg Marks and Erwin will meet with the editorial team to clarify this.

4. Ale Weekend. Marika made a request for people to loan Garden furniture for use in the Carolyn Garden during the weekend. Thanks were expressed to Marika for her work for this event. The Bell Ringers had wanted to open the Tower during the event but this cannot be allowed until a survey has been carried out. Adrienne Woods has agreed to meet with the surveyor in order that the tower can be open to the public at future events.

Minute 2011/63 Children's Ministry

Erwin thanked the caterers for the refreshments provided for the Families group Harvest. Broomgrove Infants school will hold their Harvest service on Friday 30th September at 14.30. St. Mary's Harvest service will be on Sunday 2nd October, with choirs from the schools.

Minute 2011/64 Communication

1. Tidings

The current cost of producing Tidings is between £110 and £120 according to the number of pages. John Williams has received three quotes from a) Osbornes of Brightlingsea, print - £198 +£38 full colour cover; b) Classique of Elmstead Market - £190 + £27 full colour cover c) Leo Print Lmt. £460 -- £540 (exc V.A.T. ).

Osbornes at Brightlingsea are known to several members of the council and he is willing to fit in with our current printer who has health problems. It was agreed by the council to accept the quote of Osbornes who will start printing when it becomes necessary.

2. Poster Delivery. Anne Horner said that she is no longer able to deliver posters. Maureen Reynolds volunteered to take on this task. Erwin thanked Anne for her past work and Maureen for taking over.

Minute 2011/65 Spirituality

1. Bible study groups will meet again after the holiday

2. The Young Adults group will reconvene after the holiday.

Jun and Karen will not be joining them again as Jun is returning to China and Karen is suffering from pressure of work.

3. Fellowship meetings will resume on Sunday 18th September.

4. Confirmation. One person has expressed an interest in preparation for this.

5. Pastoral Visitor Training. Anyone interested in this should speak to Erwin, Peter Terry or Joan Barrat.

6. Back to Church Sunday. Invitation Cards are available at the back of church

7. Passion Play. Nicki Matthews had spoken to the Worship Group of her previous experience in this field. This would take place on the Sunday before Easter 2012. She hopes to have the whole community involved and would be advertising a preliminary workshop in November. Permission would need to be sought from those parts of the town which might have limited access (i.e. semi-private such as the Quay) to pause for a short enactment. Cost would be kept to a minimum-approx. £200.

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8. More Than Gold. Rick gave further details of the meeting which he attended, relating to the proposals in place by the Church for the Olympic Games in 2012. This support would take the form of offering hospitality to athletes' families, manning water stations etc. Churches would also be given the right to erect Giant T.V. screens to show events.

Minute 2011/66

Rotas

1. Flowers. More volunteers are needed to do a simple vase at the front of church. It was suggested that this could be arranged just before morning service.

Lynne Horner is willing to lend her key if people have difficulty with access. Sylvia Usher wishes to retire from doing wedding flowers but is willing to carry on with festivals. Her daughter, Jenny is willing to arrange flowers for wedding couples. She proposes to do two pedestals which will cost £150, pew ends and other arrangements will be charged extra. Couples are able to bring in other florists if they wish. Sylvia is willing to cover for Jenny and do arrangements for funerals if specially requested.

2. Cleaning There are several new volunteers and Joan is able to put a rota together.

Minute 2011/67

St. John's Ambulance Hall

Two proposals have been submitted to Colchester Planning Committee. a) Accommodation with a studio or b) a group of interested people would purchase the building, refurbish it and make available for community use. We need to consider the potential benefit to us.

Minute 2011/68

Any Other Business

1. Lynne Horner proposed, seconded by Marika Footring it was unanimously agreed by the meeting that the church volunteers list, with the addition of Lisa Gorrod, should be formally adopted for insurance purposes.

2. Rosemary Murchie has asked to be released from her chairmanship of the Women's World Day of Prayer committee. This vacancy would be circulated widely.

3. The Secretary was asked to write to Ginny and Max Guyto thank them for kindly paying for the church chalice to be

resilvered. The chalice was shown to the members and all agreed that it looked as new.

4. Erwin is in touch with Robin Floyd who could possibly make an Aumbrey. This would be placed in the Lavabo '(the recess behind the Bishop's chair in the Sanctuary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21•42 with the Grace.

Date of next meeting-- October 11th, 2011.