

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at 7.45 pm in All Saints' Chilton**

Present

(J) denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 8 voting members plus the Chair at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Lizi Bowerman
Monika Buxton
Mel Gibson (J)
Naomi Gibson (J)
Stuart Gibson (J)
Anne Gill
Gordon Gill
Andrew Hayes (J)

Tony Hughes (J)
Lin Kerr
Hazel King
Vicki Luker
Liz Morris (J)
Ruth Poole
Alex Reich
Liz Roberts (minutes)

Pam Rolls (J)
Sylvie Thompson
Chris Wheaton
Jane Woolley (from
point 8b)) (J)
The Rector (Chair, J)

1. Opening & Prayer

The Rector read from Psalm 29 to remind us that our deliberations, whilst inevitably dealing with fairly prosaic 'business' considerations, should be to God's glory.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Peter Barclay-Watt, Philip Garner, Carol Pigott, John Pigott, Allan MacArthur, Roz Shipp, Peter Cox

3. Minutes of the February 2013 meeting

The minutes of the CPCC meeting in February 2013 were signed as a correct record with the inclusion of an *amendment* to the following item under Outreach and Support group (page 5):

Foodbank referrals:

Liz Roberts said the Clergy, Churchwardens and Outreach and Support are *in a position to cross-refer* for food bank vouchers.

4. Matters arising

Outreach and Support (Page 4):

- Tony Hughes has sent on the Visiting Team guidelines from 1999 to Outreach and Support.
- The appointment of a Home Group Coordinator is still ongoing.

5. Annual Re-appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of JPCC Sub-Committees

Although the five Joint PCC Sub-Committees had not yet served a whole year, the Rector asked that the Chairs and Vice-chairs be reappointed for a further year at this meeting. All Chairs and Vice-Chairs have agreed to stand again and the JPCC unanimously accepted their appointment.

6. Membership changes

Worship Services Group reported that Georgina Greer has left.

Youth and Families reported that Anne Gill has left.

7. Safeguarding

The individual PCCs have delegated authority for safeguarding issues to the JPCC. The Rector introduced Vicki Luker as a potential Safeguarding Officer responsible for implementing procedure in terms of our dealing with the protection of u18s and vulnerable adults.

Resolution	To appoint Vicki Luker as Benefice Safeguarding Officer				
Moved	From Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

Vicki Luker asked that no-one assume that fellow team members were cleared for the work they might be undertaking with children and vulnerable adults and urged them to check with her that clearance was indeed up to date. She said that she would be a one-stop shop for collating and verifying information to allow for speedy clearance. Georgina Greer, the retiring Safeguarding Officer, was available to consult/step in if necessary. Vicki would also take over the role previously played by Frances Taylor.

Vicki Luker confirmed her understanding that the Benefice, not the individuals concerned, would pay the administration fees associated with clearance. It was confirmed that this had indeed been resolved and voted on before at JPCC. Gordon Gill said that he was aware of some recent changes.

Action: Gordon Gill to liaise with Vicki Luker to ensure they both have the same information.

8. Reports of the Sub-Committees

a) Communications and Operations

Paper B was presented. Discussion ensued:

- 8.a.i Sidesmen need to know that there are welcome leaflets to give out in church as well as Broadsheet deliverers having a stock to hand to newly occupied homes on their rounds. This led to a discussion of how to record new names into the 'old' villages as well as people visiting our churches from outside the Benefice – people moving in to a new development are much easier to track.

Action: The Rector to explore some way of centrally recording new parishioners with due regard to limiting access to the data.

- 8.a.ii The inkjet printer request may now not be necessary as the office photocopier seemed capable of taking quality card after all.

- 8.a.iii Sunday noticesheet advance distribution.

Action: The Rector to ask the Administrator if, as had been commented on, the forthcoming Sunday noticesheet is no longer being sent out by email. If the email system is indeed not being used any longer, to ask if it could be reinstated, even if only with a link to the appropriate part of the website rather than with an attachment.

8.a.iv The proposed new Benefice logo was presented with the rationale for change. Liz Roberts said that it had been a pleasure to engage the congregations in such thoughtful and useful dialogue about a communications issue.

Discussion ensued about whether a new logo was necessary, given the number of people who, given the opportunity, preferred 'no change'. Mel Gibson reminded us that those who had taken an interest in the debate, but who had expressed the view that no change was necessary, were in the minority compared to those who voted for one or the other of the new proposals.

It was noted that there was no denominational affiliation on either of the two new proposed logos, but Gordon Gill as Lay Chair of the Wallingford Deanery suggested that the name Harwell & Chilton Churches may have to be revisited with new developments in the western edge of the Deanery, the potential for a new church in the parish on GWP/Valley Park and possibly other denominations that may come in the future.

Tony Hughes asked to have it recorded that the suggestion made that there was something negative about the words 'Jesus Christ is Lord' was regrettable, given that they are so central to our faith. Gordon Gill reaffirmed Tony Hughes' comment adding that a professional colleague conducting research into Christian brands suggested that overtly Christian statements in brand names/logos can be 'off-putting' to new seeker Christians, almost too evangelical. The examples cited in the research were 'Christianity Explored' compared to 'Alpha'. The Comms and Ops Group had suspected this when first setting objectives for a new logo. The Rector confirmed that the profession of faith 'Jesus Christ is Lord' is still foundational to who we are and what we do, but queried the appropriateness of its use in a logo.

The JPCC was asked to vote that a new logo in its Cross variant, subject to slight modification in the light of comments made during the consultation, be accepted as our new Benefice logo, but as the issue was clearly emotive the Rector asked for the CPCC to guide the JPCC by showing its feelings in advance of the JPCC vote. Three members of the CPCC abstained from the initial vote, otherwise all were in agreement.

Resolution		To accept the Cross variant as the new Benefice logo subject to modification.							
Moved	From Chair	Seconded	-	In favour	7	Against	-	Abstention	1

The Rector thanked Lin Kerr for her work of nine months on this project.

8.a.v The CPCC were brought up to date with the Broadsheet review which Comms and Ops Group had conducted (Paper G) and gave the go-ahead for further research to be undertaken. The Group was asked to be mindful about considerations of the calendar of events in a revamped publication schedule. Andrew Hayes' experience was that, on months when the current Broadsheet did not appear, it was the events listings that recipients most missed.

b) Outreach and Support

8.b.i Paper C refers. The CPCC were brought up to date about the appointment of a Home Group Coordinator: the Rector had not yet made such an appointment.

8.b.ii It was time to have an Alpha course in Chilton, probably in January; alternatively the START course was being explored as being less challenging in terms of hospitality and time commitment.

Action: The Rector to ask Churches Together in Didcot and District if anyone had plans for an Alpha course which the Benefice could contribute and invite guests to, as an alternative to holding our own.

8.b.iii A review of Connect would take place at the end of the Summer term.

c) World Mission

The Group is meeting monthly for prayer and has recently worked on budget proposals for mission partners to be presented to the individual PCCs at their July meetings.

d) Worship Services

Paper D refers.

8.d.i Alcohol Free Wine at Holy Communion

In order to have the taking of Communion accessible to as many as wished it, the Rector was proposing the introduction of alcohol-free wine. Discussion ensued and it was decided to institute a trial change.

Resolution	Subject to finding an appropriate source and acceptability according to Canon Law, to trial between September and November 2013 the use of alcohol-free wine at Holy Communion services at 9.30 and 11.00am and to review the success of this at November JPCC.				
Moved	From Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

This would be communicated in advance via the noticesheet; it should explain that alcohol-free wine is theologically no less representative of the act of the Last Supper and that such wine is commonly used in other places in the Anglican Communion. Further that the JPCC wishes to use only one type of wine at Holy Communion (logistical and cost issues) and so would urge congregants to be open-minded about the trial: accepting alcohol-free wine as the norm at our Holy Communion services would enable us to be fully inclusive of those who might have medical or cultural issues around alcohol.

8.d.ii. Proposal for weekly printed service sheets

The rationale in Paper D was accepted.

Resolution	To produce each week for the morning services a single publication including all the words needed for liturgy and songs, and so dispense with the need for separate orders of service, hymns books, etc. To trial this system for a term and then review.				
Moved	From Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

8.d.iii Proposal to change 4th Sunday to 'Service of the Word'

The rationale in Paper D was accepted and the meeting moved to a resolution which must also be confirmed in the individuals PCCs. Two issues were raised: whether the name of the service has to change from Morning Worship (no) and the appeal from the Rector for CPCC members share with him any remarks they have that service changes of any sort are not well-received. He reminded the meeting that mature Christians should be prepared to be flexible in their personal preferences for the sake of growing the church: attendance at services was about giving to others by one's presence and support as well as about receiving.

Resolution	To to change the service on the 4th Sunday of the month to the format of 'Service of the Word' with the option of keeping secondary-aged children in the congregation for the whole service				
Moved	From Chair	Seconded	-	Passed	Unanimously

e) Youth and Families

Papers E and F were presented and the CPCC invited the Group to continue to work on the viability of both roles – both a Children and Families Worker and a Youth Worker. The Group was asked to consider expanding the brief from ages 13+ to 26 (Alex Reich’s suggestion) and to consider whether established Church franchises would work for us rather than creating a post from scratch. Sorting the funding issue was critical to this receiving further consideration. Gordon Gill reminded us that children, families and youth work, though already very well catered for in our Benefice, was at the moment entirely the ‘ministry of the volunteer’ and that to be sustained and to flourish it had to be the ‘ministry of the Church’

The Rector thanked the Group for their thoughtful report and asked for an update in the September JPCC.

9. Benefice activities

a) Connect – a review meeting will be held in July.

b) Summer 2013 events:

9.b.i **Songs of Praise** on Sunday 26th May was a very successful event, with both Harwell and Chilton represented in the congregation and contributing.

Action: The CPCC Secretary to bring forward consideration for a repeat event in May 2014 at the February CPCC.

9.b.ii The meeting considered that holding this year a family event similar to the **OlymPicnic** in Summer 2012 would stretch the churches too much and so would not be planning anything at this late stage.

9.b.iii. **Prayer Spaces at Chilton School** will take place between 8-12 July and Pam will be seeking volunteers from both congregations to man the 4 tented prayer areas.

9.b.iv **Holiday Club** 19-23 August 2013 – plans are progressing with 58 children signed up already.

c) Harwell West

The issue of special outreach events or activities for Harwell West is a permanent item on CPCC agendas. There was nothing to report to this meeting.

10. Deanery and further afield:

a) Parish Share 2014

The meeting was updated on the Deanery Synod’s plan to work to a new formula for Parish Share income, including that Parish Share be calculated and paid by the Benefice and not the individual parishes within it. This means that the Benefice meets the cost of its stipendiary minister(s). Deanery Treasurers (as confirmed by Stuart Gibson who was present at CPCC) had unanimously found this to be a more workable solution than the current ‘ability to pay’ model. Another change would be that parish

fees, such as for funerals, would be returned to the parish rather than being Diocesan income. There are still some hurdles to overcome in bringing in these changes, but Gordon Gill felt that they are likely to be the way ahead.

b) Great Western Park

See c) below

c) Mission and Pastoral Plan

Tony Hughes distributed notes (at Appendix to these minutes), outlining the implications for Harwell of proposals in the recent draft VWH Local Plan 2029. Gordon Gill explained that the Deanery was exploring the possibility of creating a new ecclesiastical parish consisting of Valley Park and Great Western Park. The parish of St Ebbe's in Oxford, an established missional church with connections to the area, was considering offering a church plant to the area.

11) Stewardship

Members of the Stewardship group and others would be attending a presentation about "Friends of" groups in July. They plan to explore whether such an organisation would be an opportunity to tap new sources of income to our Benefice. They have a further meeting planned for July covering this and other matters related to increasing the income of our churches.

12) CPCC Away day

The meeting agreed with the Rector that a CPCC Away Day is valuable time together and the action was raised on the Rector to organise one.

<p>Action: The Rector to organise a Doodle poll for availability, aiming for a Saturday in the autumn term, and to make arrangements for the day.</p>
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13) Growing Leaders Course

This course, devised by CPAS – joint patrons for the Benefice – is a one evening a month for 10 months programme aimed at anyone, particularly those in leadership positions, to give them a chance to be nurtured and grow in their faith and Christian leadership. It was suggested that part of the planned CPCC AwayDay could be a 'taster' session from this course to give members an opportunity to experience it.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 10.45pm.

Appendix

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 Part 1 Consultation Draft: brief Briefing

- The consultation period on this document ended on 9 May. It was the latest step in a series of iterations starting in 2007.
- The VWH Local Plan 2029 will be adopted in perhaps 18 - 24 months, after further stages including a formal Examination in Public by an Inspector.
- It is worth noting that the equivalent South Oxfordshire Local Plan was adopted last year; the expansion of Didcot involves both SODC and VWH as the border is where the present Didcot starts as you enter from the Harwell direction (near Slade Road).
- It is also worth noting that these planning processes are prone to significant slippage. The original plans that ultimately led to Great Western Park were for completion by 2011; in fact GWP only obtained outline planning permission in 2006 and was started in late 2011. It may take up to 2020 to complete. So the Local Plan date of 2029 has to be taken with a pinch of salt.
- The plans are always ‘aspirational’ – for example the VWH plans for housing require an average build rate over 15 years to 2029 of 578 p.a. (expressed also as 13,294 houses 2006 – 2029). Over the last 10 years VWH has averaged about 360 p.a.
- The Plan covers many things including employment growth, housing and infrastructure.
- It envisages 14,300 new jobs by 2029, many of them at Milton Park and Harwell Campus.
- The housing plans include development at Wantage/Grove, and significantly for us up to 2,150 homes at ‘Valley Park’ between GWP and the A34 east of Harwell, and up to 400 homes at North Drive. All these houses would all be in Harwell Parish and represent a growth of ~ 250% of the present Parish on top of the ~60% growth from GWP.
- Note also that over the District border the SODC Local Plan includes 2,030 houses north of Ladygrove and 640 houses at ‘Ladygrove East’ opposite Tesco (Ladygrove East was supposed to be 5 years ahead of GWP, but is not yet started).
- There is much concern about what these very large growths in population mean for the local environment and for traffic levels.
- As far as local churches are concerned these very large growths in population represent a substantial challenge and opportunity on top of the challenges already posed by GWP (and Chilton Field). Just to put it into perspective, a rough estimate made a few years ago showed that the attendance at St. Matthew’s could double by the 2030s just from population growth, let alone successful mission and outreach.