

Minutes of a Meeting of Harwell PCC held on Tuesday 10 May at 7.45pm in Harwell Church Extension

Present

Jean Barton	Clive House	Chris Stott (Chair)
Cathy Convery	Tim Roberts	Frances Taylor
Kate Evans	Clive Silver	Marilyn Thomas
Sid Gale	Wendy Sinclair	Tony Ullmer
Madeleine Gibson	Ruth Slatter	
Georgina Greer	Martin Speed (Secretary)	

1. Opening

Chris welcomed the new members and opened the meeting with a reading from 2 Timothy 1: 1,10.

2. Apologies for absence

Rob Thomas and Steve Tunstall.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 8th March 2005 were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **GB Tree in the churchyard:** Ruth reported that following agreement by the Parish Council to plant the new tree at any specified location she was investigating whether there were any limitations on selecting a new location because of the risk of disturbing tombs. The meeting was not able to tell her whether there was a map, and if so who had it.

Action: Ruth to investigate further and then liaise with the Parish Council .

- b) **Church weekend:** Chris reported that Slavanka were moving venue and would no longer be suitable.

Action: *Chris (or anyone)* to propose a new venue.

- c) **Church cleaning co-ordinator:** Chris reported that no-one had been found for this role.

Action: All to retain this need in our prayers, and to put forward any ideas.

- d) **Missions display board:** Clive S and Ruth reported that Allan McArthur was working on a laminated central image for a re-vamped display. Replacing the old board in the mean time was considered, but it was thought that the impact of the new board would be diminished if the old one was seen to appear again.

Action: Ruth to follow up on progress with Allan.

5. Election of Officers

Resolution	That the people listed below are appointed to the posts specified				
Moved	Sid Gale	Seconded	Georgina Greer	Passed	Unanimously

Churchwardens' assistants:	Allan Walker, Malcolm and Mandy Birkinshaw, Allan McArthur, Jim and Wendy Sinclair.
Treasurer:	Clive House (Elizabeth Gill to remain as book keeper)
Gift Aid Secretary:	Geoff Jenkinson
Electoral Roll Officer:	Wendy Sinclair
Vice-Chair:	Tim Roberts
Secretary:	Martin Speed
Stewardship secretary:	Norman Ponting
Joint PCC members:	Clive Silver, Kate Evans (in addition to 'standing members': Rector, 2 Churchwardens, and Secretary)

6. Appointment of committees

Resolution	That the people listed below are appointed to the committee posts specified				
Moved	Ruth Slatter	Seconded	Tim Roberts	Passed	Unanimously

Finance and Budget:	Clive House (chair), Tim Roberts, Clive Silver, Elizabeth Gill, Sid Gale.
Missions:	Tony Ullmer (chair), Clive Silver, Kate Ullmer, Aileen Newbold, Sid Gale, Betty Pyke.
Buildings:	Tony Hughes (chair), Frances Taylor, Sid Gale, Madeleine Gibson, David Pike, Doug Jordan, Allan McArthur, Roz Shipp.
Social:	Wendy Sinclair (chair), Ruth Slatter, Georgina Greer, Frances Taylor, Pat Connolly, Jean Twigger, Joan Impey, Margaret Hughes.

7. Appointment of representatives to organisations

Resolution	That the people listed below are appointed to the organisations specified				
Moved	Kate Evans	Seconded	Georgina Greer	Passed	Unanimously

Christian Aid:	Wednesday morning group
Village Hall:	Liz Roberts
Winterbrook Youth Club:	Tony Hughes
Churches Together in Didcot:	Cath Convery

8. Financial report

Clive H distributed a written report as usual. Income and expenditure are broadly in line with the target budgeted deficit. Regular giving and recovered tax are projected to be above budget, but loose alms to be down.

Clive reported that a new bank mandate was needed to take account of the changes in the PCC.

Resolution	That a new bank mandate be established that will give authority to any two of the following to sign to give instructions for the operation of the account: the Rector, the Assistant Minister, the Churchwardens, the Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Book keeper				
Moved	Clive House	Seconded	Tim Roberts	Passed	Unanimously

The missions committee had made a request to the finance committee for an additional £500 to be transferred to the Missions Giving Budget and that the forthcoming Soul In Didcot (SID) event be a major beneficiary from the Local Giving budget.

This was referred to the PCC for consideration in the form of a report to the PCC meeting that suggested three options:

1. Current budget allocation (i.e. no transfer of funds)
2. Missions committee request (as described above)
3. Finance committee recommended proposal (a transfer of £400 with additional requirements – this is set out in the resolution below.)

In the discussion that followed the detailed list of beneficiaries were reviewed and the following opinions were expressed:

- Soul in Didcot (SID) was agreed to be important and should receive funding, but that it represented a mission rather than a local need
- The impact of a reduction in giving to the major bible based organisations (Gideons, Bible Society and Scripture Union) would be less than the impact of a reduction in giving to smaller beneficiaries (such as John Abu Bakker.)
- That the case for adding beneficiaries or varying funding to existing beneficiaries would be better suited to the time the budget is being set when there is greater opportunity for flexibility.

The finance committee proposal (option 3) was then put to a vote.

Resolution	<p>That the Finance Committee's proposal (option three) be adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A transfer of £400 is made from the Local Giving and Emergency budget, giving a total Mission giving budget of £7,650 and leaving £300 each in the Local Giving and Emergency Giving budgets 2. The Missions Committee be requested to consider a £200 donation to the SID mission 3. The Missions Committee to fund this donation by reviewing its current recommended allocation of support. 4. A donation of £100 is made to John Abu Bakker to contribute to repairs to his damaged car from the Emergency Giving budget.
Passed	With one against.

9. Baptism – review of current practice

Chris asked whether the PCC was in agreement with a policy of erring on the side of being welcoming and open with regard to requests for baptism from families living outside the parish. In the discussion that followed, it was recognised that it could be difficult for the congregation to make promises to support a family they may not see again, but that it was felt that the negative impact of a refusal was a more important issue. The PCC felt that any baptism may 'light a spark' and agreed the policy should be welcoming and open.

10. Review of Holy Week and Easter services

Jean led a discussion of the Holy Week and Easter services. In summary, the services were well received and the meeting supported similar arrangements being made for next year. The presentation made at the start of the Good Friday service was reported to have been difficult to read because of the speed with which the writing scrolled.

Action: **Kate** to provide feedback to those who had written it.

Opinion was divided regarding the sermons on topics linked to the election. While some said individual sermons were particularly good, and there was praise for the nature of the topics, others did not like the election being made a sermon theme.

It was agreed that communion had taken too long to administer on Easter Day. (This was also noted to be true of most communion services.) Chris invited the meeting to consider having a number of stations and communion taken standing, but there were concerns about the potential for confusion. It was noted that not putting in the middle of the barrier (so that those who found steps difficult could have communion brought to them) had meant that very little space was being used by everyone else. It was also observed that the normal one way pattern of 'flow' (up to communion by the main aisle, and back to seats via the side aisles) was not being observed causing some delays.

Action: **Chris and Jean** before communion to invite those in the congregation who can get back up easily to use the area without a rail, and for everyone to maintain the one way system.

11. Buildings Committee update

Notes and actions from the Church Buildings Committee Meeting on 23 April were circulated at the meeting.

Chris reported that the working days had been agreed for June 3rd & 4th. He pointed out that there would be jobs for those of all levels of skill and agility. This will include work in the hall if there are sufficient helpers.

Actions: **All** to encourage as many people to attend the working days as possible.

All to let Tony know of any other jobs that need doing during the working days.

Chris also reported that: the rotten gate [in the churchyard] had been removed and that a letter had been written to the Parish Council asking whether they would make repairs; the toilet and kitchen area works were planned to go ahead in mid July and be finished at the end of August and this would cause a reduction in services that may be partly ameliorated by the hire of a porta-loo;

12. Future courses

An **Alpha** course is planned for the autumn, with Steve Ward and Linda as leaders and Naomi as administrator. A venue is needed.

Actions: **All** to remember this in your prayers and to make suggestions.

Chris is to lead an **Interactive Christian Extension Studies Course (ICES)** which for £45 will provide 10 sessions, with coursework between each, which will be open to the Deanery. There will be an open evening on June 22nd. Leaflets are at the back of the Church.

There will be a Global **Willow Creek Conference** in Bracknell on September 30th and October 1st for which 8 bookings have been made. Specific invitations have been given – 4 from Chilton and 4 from Harwell (There is another one the following week should more people want to attend.)

13. Matters arising from the AGM

The meeting discussed the issue of disturbance from children in Church, which was raised at the AGM. Though some suggestions were made (such as removing noisy toys from the back of the church and encouraging more use of the crèche) it was also noted that the future of the church relied upon welcoming and encouraging children and their families and that this was a difficult balance to strike.

14. Future Dates

11 June	Childrens' Activity morning (Chilton)
18 June	Youth Sleepover in Harwell Church
10 July	Confirmation service (Harwell Church)
14 July	Harwell Young Singers Concert (TBC)
22 – 24 July	Soul in Didcot
8 – 10 and 15 – 17 August	Landlubbers: Harwell Holiday Club
21 August	Gideons Speaking
17 September	Songs of Faith concert: Bob Eagle (Harwell Church)
8 October	Voices for Hospices Concert: (Harwell Church)
21 – 23 October	Visit of David and Heather Sharland

15. Other Business

- a) **Archdeacon’s visitation:** focussed on the deanery plan which was concerned with identifying what functions were best done at Deanery level. It was noted that the plan required a reduction from 10 to 7 stipendiary clergy in the Deanery by 2007. The PCCs will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their parishes.
- b) It was noted that Kate Evans had started her training following her being given an **authorisation to preach and lead services** by the Bishop, the PCC having given their approval previously. It was reported that Marilyn Thomas was considering doing the same starting in September. The PCC was asked to consider this and a decision would be taken at the next meeting, if Marilyn decided she did want to pursue this.
- c) Clive asked on behalf of the Missions Committee whether Marilyn knew what plans **Sarah and Andrew** had for future mission work amongst students. Marilyn reported that Sarah would be moving on to ordinary employment at the end of the year, but that Andrew was looking to do another year at the Titus trust, and possibly seeking ordination.

16. Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 10:05pm.

17. Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 July at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension.

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Martin Speed, secretary