

Minutes of a Meeting of Harwell PCC
held on Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 7.45pm in Harwell Church
Extension

Present

Cath Convery	Vicky Macarthur	Ruth Slatter
Sid Gale (Chair)	Tim Roberts (part)	Martin Speed (Secretary)
Georgina Greer	Clive Silver	Frances Taylor
Clive House	Wendy Sinclair	Jane Woolley

1. Opening

Sid opened the meeting with a reading from Paul's letter to Timothy, reflection and prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Madeleine Gibson, Stephen Tunstall, Nancy Preston, Kate Evans and Chris Stott.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 26th September 2006 were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

- a) **Pew sale:** Item carried forward to the next meeting as Tim had not arrived.

Action: *Tim* to continue to progress.

- b) **Church weekend:** Frances reported to the meeting as follows:

56 bookings have been made so far.

Lynne and Chris Naiver have been invited to attend as children's co-ordinators. (They have attended the Cholsey Church weekend at this venue.)

Action: **Frances** to report progress at the next meeting.

- c) **Altar Frontals:** Ruth reported that the process was continuing as reported at the last meeting.

Action: **Ruth** to report progress at the next meeting.

- d) **Churchyard seat:** Ruth reported that Mr Bint had agreed to make a suitable bench within the budget, and was looking for an appropriate source of oak with a view to making the bench in the spring.

Action: **Ruth** to and report progress at the next meeting.

- e) **Note to fair trade organisers:** Martin reported that he had sent a note by e-mail as requested.

- f) **Jean’s expenses:** Clive H reported in detail in response to the question about the unused expenses showing in last month’s accounts. In summary a quiet period and time away had meant that a new advance had not been needed – but this has now been required and the accounts this month reflect this.
- g) **Subsidies for Youth fellowship members attending the church weekend:** Vicky reported that she had advertised the possibility via Steve Manning, but that nothing had come of this. Cath raised a concern about the issues of parental responsibility if teenagers came without their parents. Vicky said that these issues would be addressed if the situation arose. At present the young people had only been asked to express an interest.

5. Financial report

Clive H presented a **report on the financial position to 10th November**. Among the key points he made:

- Income is generally ‘on course’ as it stands at 88% of budget after 87% of the year has passed
- Expenditure is generally below budget except for Maintenance where £5,000 has been transferred to the Tower Fund in advance of the fund-raising

The missions giving proposal from the missions committee was discussed. Clive S gave a brief review of the role of the organisations that would benefit and the rationale behind the proposal. In general the meeting supported the proposal, but it was noted that proposal did not include and giving to Soul in Didcot (SID). It was proposed that the missions committee be asked to revise their proposal to include a minimum of £200 for SID.

Resolution	That the missions committee revise their spending proposal to include £200 for SID – adjusting giving to other organisations to accommodate this within the existing budget				
Moved	Wendy	Seconded	Frances	Passed	Unanimously

It was noted that the revised proposal would have to be agreed by the standing committee so that the money could be paid within this year’s accounts.

The proposals for the distribution of the **‘local giving’ budget** in the e-mail from Clive H were discussed. Cath reported that the Pelvic partnership had thanked the PCC for considering them, but did not want to be included. Cath also reported that ‘Little Pippins’ would prefer money not to be ‘earmarked’ for the ‘support a local child’ initiative, which was well funded, but would prefer money for their building appeal. There was some discussion of the appropriateness of giving in this way as ‘Little Pippins’ was not a charity. It was agreed that the money should be given to the building fund in order that ‘Little Pippins’ could provide disabled access provisions as part of the new building. It was agreed that organisations were equally deserving and that the budget should therefore be split equally between them.

Resolution	That the 'local giving' budget be spent by donating £75 to each of the following organisations: 1) South and Vale Carers 2) Little Pippins (to contribute to disabled access aspects of their new building) 4) See Saw, for bereaved children 5) PACT, the Diocesan children's charity				
Moved	Clive H	Seconded	Wendy	Passed	Unanimously

6. Buildings committee report

The written buildings committee report provided by Tony Hughes was noted.

7. The Church Tower Funding Strategy

Tim reported that:

- No decision had been made on logos
- The full cost of the work would be known shortly as the tender deadline was looming
- Pledge forms and leaflets were being drafted and would be circulated for approval shortly

8. Team time meeting

Martin passed on the message from Kate that there had not been a team time meeting since the last PCC meeting.

9. The because approach

Tim reported that the group was shortly starting an activity audit to identify where the Church was currently putting its focus. This would lead to a proposal for a new balanced programme of activities that would be ready for discussion in January.

10. Combined PCC

Tim reported that the combined PCC group was currently running in parallel with the 'because' approach because comparison of the activity audits in Chilton and Harwell was the next step in their plan.

11. Dealt with by the standing committee

Martin reported that the standing committee had decided that the toy service toys should be given to the Women's refuge in Oxford. (Arising out of this item Jane asked for a volunteer to deliver the toys and Vicky said she would do it, and Cath said we should ensure everyone was reminded of the 'requirements' for this year.)

12. Report from the Swanwick 'Body Beautiful' conference

This item was carried forward to the next meeting as Kate was not present.

13. 'Love life – live Lent' – possible initiative for Lent 2007

This item was carried forward to the next meeting as Kate was not present.

14. Soul in Didcot

It was agreed that the request of the organisers to speak in the church should be supported. As already noted the meeting agreed that the missions committee should revise their spending plan to accommodate a gift of £200 to SID.

15. Future dates

25 th November 10:30 to 12:30	Christmas children's activity morning
3 rd December	Toy Service
17 th December	Carols by candlelight
18 th December	Carols singing round the village – 6.30pm at the Crown and 7.15pm at Cherry Tree Court
24 th December 3:30	Crib service

16. Other Business

- a) **Thanksgiving service:** Georgina thanked all those who were involved in the thanksgiving service.
- b) **Mince pies:** Wendy reminded everyone to bring at least 12 mince pies for the carols by candlelight service (evening).
- c) **Brownies and Rainbows:** Tim reported that following Brownies and Rainbows parading at the remembrance service Chris has asked him to invite them to attend regular church parades at Harwell.
- d) **Attendance at services:** Tim reported that there was an increase in the attendance at the 8:00am service and the 11:00am service, but that the evening service it was declining. This meant that the evening service now had similar numbers to the 8:00am service. As a result of this, and to reduce the workload on churchwardens, we will move towards the evening service being supported by the sides persons without the need for a church warden on every occasion. This would bring the service in line with the 8:00am service. Tim was in the process of organising this.
- e) **Change to when young people join the 11:00 service:** Vicky reported that she would be telling the congregation about the change at the 11:00 am service on Sunday 19th November.
- f) **Wind power:** Vicky asked whether the church had considered putting a wind turbine on the church tower. Whilst there was enthusiasm for reducing costs there was some discussion about potential problems of noise, aesthetics and cost effectiveness. The meeting asked that the issue be passed to the buildings committee for consideration.

- g) **Missions committee:** Sid asked that a note be put in the notice sheet asking for volunteers to join the missions committee.

Action: *Martin* to draft a note and pass on to Naomi.

17. Close

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:15 pm.

18. Next Meeting

Tuesday 23rd January 2007 at 7.45 pm in the Church Extension.

..... Chris Stott, chairman

..... Martin Speed, secretary

PAPERS

- PCC06M3 Minutes of previous meeting
- PCCP6-4-01 Finance report
- PCCP6-4-02 Missions giving statement
- PCCP6-4-03 Local giving options
- PCCP6-4-04 Buildings report
- PCCP6-4-05 Soul in Didcot 2007