

**Minutes of a Meeting of Harwell PCC**  
held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 8.15 pm in All Saint's Church, Chilton

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**Present**

Sarah Milrose	Tony Hughes	Liz Roberts
Kate Evans	Allan Macarthur	Jonathan Wood
Mel Gibson (Secretary)	Tim Roberts	Jane Woolley
Georgina Greer	Nicholas Milrose	

**1. Opening**

Tim Roberts opened the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Gordon Gill.

**3. Minutes of the last meetings**

The minutes of the PCC meeting on 10th May 2011 were signed by the chair as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising**

- a) **Rectory Lawn Function:** Jane Woolley reported that the organisation was in hand and that Margaret Hughes and Pat Connelly had agreed to supervise refreshments. There was a meeting about the refreshments next week and donations of cakes etc. would be required later.
- b) **Our Street Corner:** David Woolley has agreed to be the PCC representative. Jane Woolley said that there was nothing to report at the moment.
- c) **Social Secretary:** Monica Buxton has agreed to carry out this roll.

**5. Buildings Committee Report**

Tony Hughes submitted the report to the PCC which had already been circulated before the meeting and invited any comments. Under item 2, the pews that had been removed for the decoration were now back in place, but could be removed again if required. Tim Roberts asked if there was a safety concern as the pews had not been screwed down, but it was thought that because of their weight it would not be an issue. Under item 3 if anybody would like a copy of the report they should contact Tony Hughes.

- a) Installation of Sound Control Measures in the Bell-Chamber. Tony Hughes said that the Faculty requires a formal resolution, proposed, seconded and voted upon by the PCC. The cost of the project is £1900 and this will be funded by the bell ringers.

<b>Resolution</b>	That the PCC approves the installation of sound control measures in the bell-chamber, as proposed by the bell ringers and supported by the Buildings Committee and the Diocesan bell adviser.				
<b>Proposed</b>	Georgina Greer	<b>Seconded</b>	Sid Gale	<b>Passed</b>	Unanimously

Tony Hughes reported that a planning application had been submitted by Winterbrook to build an Orangery at the back of the property. It was decided by the churchwardens and the secretary that this did not cause a problem.

A bolt has been fitted to the back door of the church by the secretary and this should be noted as it was an exit door in case of fire.

## 6. Finance Report

Jonathan Wood gave a summary of the Finance Report already circulated before the meeting. **Income:** this was £130/ month up but this was very disappointing after the presentation earlier in the year to get people to donate more. Ideas put forward were: when things are bought for the church, it should be claimed and donated back so that the church could claim gift aid: we should appeal again and catch more people: fundraising and legacies was another option.

**Expenses:** There was a shortfall of £15000 to £19000 and we could use up the reserves in about four years. Allan Macarthur said that the congregation should be given a factual update on the budget, so that they realise our shortfall. Tony Hughes reminded the PCC that we agreed to give a factual update in September and we should tell the congregation that our last response was tiny and they should have the deficit explained.

Liz Roberts suggested that we could try and get more standing orders and perhaps people should pay a membership fee for fledgelings etc. It was also felt that people do not like committing themselves to giving a fixed sum every week and like to be flexible. Jane Woolley suggested that people give up things for Lent and it would be a good idea to donate the money saved to the church. It was agreed to give another presentation in September.

At the moment we are 52% over budget and the Parish Share has not changed.

## 7. Harvest Donation

A letter from Liz Roberts had been circulated before the meeting, outlining her proposal that the Harvest donation this year go to the Didcot Emergency Food bank. Liz Roberts explained her letter. Last year, the food bank had 243 days of food and the Harvest sale of fresh food is not useable It would be better to donate tins etc. It was noted that most of the tinned food last year was donated to the Porch and there was nothing to buy.

<b>Resolution</b>	That the Harvest Donation this year goes to the Didcot Emergency Food Bank				
<b>Proposed</b>	Tony Hughes	<b>Seconded</b>	Sarah Milrose	<b>Passed</b>	Unanimously

## 8. Church Housing Trust

The secretary had distributed a letter before the meeting from the Church Housing Trust asking for donations. The Trust has hostels and women's refuge for homeless people. Sid Gale said that the Trust was not a mission and therefore we should not donate money. It was felt that it would be better inviting the Trust to give a talk about their work to the Evergreens or the Ladies Group and there could then be a donation from these groups.

**9. World War 2 Plaque.**

A letter had been distributed from the Royal British Legion inviting the PCC to add K Seacole to the wooden World War 2 plaque in St. Matthew’s Church. The name has already been added to the Village War Memorial in 2010. It was decided that Tony Hughes on behalf of the Buildings Committee and Liz Roberts would find an engraver to do the work.

**Action:** Tony Hughes and Liz Roberts to find an engraver to carry out the work.

<b>Resolution</b>	That the name K Seacole be added to the wooden World War 2 Plaque in St. Matthew's Church.				
<b>Proposed</b>	Liz Roberts	<b>Seconded</b>	Jonathan Wood	<b>Passed</b>	Unanimously

**10. Security.**

A letter had been received from the Diocese about security and this was discussed. Security was a widespread problem with lead being taken from church roofs and thieving within the church building. A cheque had been found damaged inside the wall safe and it was suggested that a baffle was fitted inside the safe to prevent people from trying to remove items. The fitting of a camera was discussed but it was decided to monitor the situation and report back at future meetings if there was further problems.

**11. Churches together in Didcot.**

Kate Evans reported on the latest developments with the Churches together in Didcot. A working party has been set up looking at the community centre and a permanent site for the centre. David Hancock had been on the local television news last night discussing the new Didcot Housing. It was thought that Jonathan Mobey would be on the working party when he takes over as Rector in September. It was decided at the last PCC meeting that because of our financial situation we would offer help with the new community centre in kind. There was another meeting next Wednesday to discuss how the community centre would be run and the permanent building should be bigger. There was a similar project in Berinsfield which could be worth monitoring for any ideas.

**12. Standing Committee.**

The Standing Committee has not met since the last PCC meeting.

**13. Any other business.**

(a) Mission Giving: Sid Gale presented the Mission Giving for 2011 and said that the list could change next year after Jonathan Mobey became Rector.

<b>Resolution</b> That the PCC agree the Mission Giving proposal for 2011/12					
<b>Proposed</b>	Sid Gale	<b>Seconded</b>	Georgina Greer	<b>Agreed</b>	Unanimously

(b) Booklet: Sid Gale said that St. Matthew’s used to give a booklet to year 6 at Harwell School called “Your Move” and it did not happen last year. The cost is £2.99p/ book. Sid Gale suggested that we should start it again this year and Pam Rolls could present the books. The PCC unanimously agreed .

(c) Mission Table: It was suggested that the mission table should have a new position behind the font, but the plaque should not be covered up. The book case could be moved. Another suggestion was to redesign the table. Tim Roberts suggested that Sid Gale, Georgina Greer, Tony Hughes and Allan Macarthur get together to decide the new position, but that it is left until after the Induction Service on the 6<sup>th</sup> September.

(d) Little Pippins: Tony Hughes reported that Little Pippins would be moving in to their new premises in September and would no longer require the church hall.

(e) Harvest Lunch: This has been booked for the first Sunday in October.

**14. Close**

Georgina Greer closed the meeting with prayer at 21:20hrs.

**15.Next Meeting**

The next **Harwell PCC meeting** will be on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011** at 9:00pm in St Matthew’s Harwell, following a **combined PCC meeting** which will start at 7:45 in the same venue.

These minutes were signed as a true record by:

..... Chairman

..... Secretary

On ..... (Date)