

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Combined PCCs
of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton
held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Present

(J) Denotes Joint PCC member. There were thus 9 voting members at this meeting - all resolutions refer to Joint PCC votes

Hazel Benton (J)	Naomi Gibson (J)	Judith Russell (J)
Elizabeth Clarke (J)	Steve Hale	Eliza Wheaton (J)
Liz Clarke	Tony Hughes (J)	Jane Woolley (J)
Peter Cox (Secretary)	Liz Morris	The Rector (Chair, J)
Debra Dewhurst	Patrick Moseley	
Sid Gale	Pam Rolls (J)	

By Invitation:

Jean Barton, Home Groups Coordinator
Helen Brook, World Mission Group Leader (for items A5 to B4).

The items were taken in agenda order.

A Preliminaries

A 1 Opening & Prayer

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Rector opened the meeting with a reading: 1 Corinthians 13 v 11 – 12.

He said that it is quite something to be completely known. God knows us not as we know ourselves. He knows us personally in order to work through us.

The Rector led the meeting in prayer.

A 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Sarah Barrett, Deborah Evans, Stuart Gibson (J), Gordon Gill, Judy Gold, Sue Greatbanks, Rebecca Lewis, John Pigott, Jan Radford (J), Alex Reich, Liz Roberts, and Tim Roberts (J). Phill Johnston was absent.

A 3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

A 3.1 July 2023 Combined PCC Minutes

Paper I refers: July 2023 Combined PCC Meeting Minutes for approval.

There were no corrections to the minutes.

Straw poll carried. Passed by the JPCC by implication.

Resolution	That the July 2023 minutes in Paper I are approved.				
Proposed	Peter Cox	Seconded	Rector	Passed by the JPCC	Unanimous.

As this meeting was held online, the minutes will be signed by the Secretary and Chair in due course.

A4 Actions / Matters arising

Paper J refers. There were the following updates:

Administrator's Salary

The Rector said that this was discussed at the last Individual PCC meeting, and will be taken forward to the next budget cycle.

GDPR

Sid Gale said that the government is revising the GDPR regulations to move them away from the European Union rules. It was thought that the new rules would be out by Christmas, but this has been moved to later in the year. It may not be worth spending a lot of time on this yet.

The Rector said that the principles of data protection would not change. He asked if there is anything onerous on us. Sid Gale said that the plan is to make the rules less onerous.

A 5 Annual Schedule Items

The annual schedule items on the agenda are: Meeting Dates and Annual Agenda Setting (see below) B1 (allocation of World Missions budget), C1 (Data Protection Policy), C 2 (Benefice share) and C4 (Staff Review).

A 5.1 Meeting Dates and Annual Agenda Setting

Paper G refers: 2024: Proposed Schedule of Meetings:

Three Individual PCC meetings, two Combined PCC meetings in 2024. Twelve possible dates for PCC Standing Committee meetings from October 2023 to December 2024).

Naomi Gibson said that the Secretary had made some suggestions (to spread the CPCC meetings more evenly through the year, and asked where the usual CPCC agenda items would go).

The schedule can be adjusted, and the Governance review and Geoff Maughan may also have some input. The JPCC may also meet.

Discussion ensued and the Rector responded to the following points made by the PCC members:

Several PCC members were concerned that the lower number of PCC meetings and large number of Standing Committee meetings meant that the PCC was being sidelined and decisions moved to the Standing Committee.

The three-month gap between the November and February meetings is a long time wait for formal PCC approval of any items that need it. The Standing Committees can agree on some matters, but it could hold up some bigger changes e.g. those that need a faculty.

The Rector said that the PCCs are the decision-making bodies, and he is definitely not trying to undermine them or remove powers. The PCCs delegate authority to the Combined PCC, which can be unilaterally withdrawn. The Standing Committees get their authority from the PCCs too.

However, the PCCs can only make decisions at PCC meetings. The Standing Committees exist all the time, so they can make decisions when needed. They should also know the limits of their authority, and request that an extra PCC meeting is called when required. A refresh of the PCCs is needed to make this clear. This is how PCCs work in other parishes.

We should not change the schedule before Geoff Maughan the Governance consultant reports.

The Rector said that Geoff Maughan will advise and help us map out our decision-making process, but he won't give us the answers and he cannot change the legal definition of the PCCs.

A governance review is good, but the current structure obscures where decisions are being made and it is not clear who is responsible for them.

The Rector said that he is not against lots of meetings, but he is not convinced that they lead to involvement from the wider church or clarity. The time commitment and conversations do not lead to actions.

This can mean decisions are not being taken when needed, and can be put off for months or sometimes years.

Most other parishes have far fewer meetings, and call extra meetings when needed, rather than having lots of meetings scheduled. It is a different way of thinking.

The Rector said that he is aiming to have tentative agendas, with a couple of decisions per meeting appropriate to PCCs. This is different to the current, more conversational, style of meetings. If we get the communications correct, and business for each meeting right, then the PCCs can decide how many meetings they have. The schedules are unlikely to be mirror-images as each parish has different issues e.g. Valley Park only applies to Harwell. Each item should have documentation to make it decision-ready.

If meetings are just decision-decision-decision, there will be no opportunities for conversations about the decisions needed, and church life in general, or for fellowship for PCC members.

The Rector said that he is concerned that the PCCs are having a lot of conversations amongst themselves and not enough involving the wider congregations and community. Also, decisions are not being made, and people can get frustrated and disappointed. PCC members should have more conversations with the wider congregations, which can inform the PCC discussions.

Fellowship and conversations can take place at PCC away days. We could also have a separate series of coffee-and-cake meetings for conversations. The aim is to ensure that it is clear which meeting and people are making decisions.

Where is the budget approval meeting? Naomi Gibson said that the accounts are approved in March, not the budget. Another PCC member said that there should be budget meetings with a list of options that the PCC can agree to. A provisional budget should be available in January, but the first meeting is March.

The Rector said that aligned budgets are not necessarily a sign of health. Also, the budgets do not contain any guidelines for how much is to be spent on each item, such as communication. The Finance Committees could inform the PCCs when a decision is needed, and a meeting called using an appropriate slot, rather than having more meetings. The meeting schedule can be adjusted as needed.

A PCC member asked for examples of unsatisfactory decision making.

The Rector gave three examples:

- 1) The service times and dates.
- 2) Children and Families work – Clarity of initial vision and recruitment, and plans are not followed through.
- 3) GWP and Chilton Fields – the current housing developments, and developments to come. We have not responded well to new demographics, or listened to communities that are different to ours. Some decisions needed for the long-term are not being made.

The PCCs are competent at making decisions on buildings and fabric, but some other things are missed, and we are not so good at responding to suggestions or changing circumstances.

There should be decision-ready content available for PCC meetings, but it is not always available. Accountability is not there. The potential for a ministry area versus what happens is a balance between empowerment, an idea, and how it is pursued with clear lines of reporting and accountability for work completed.

We have the capacity to grow a lot, but the changes will be different in each parish in the benefice, so should be considered differently in each one. He would be happier if the PCCs oversee the governance of operations which are delegated well and have accountability.

The growth of the children's work has been phenomenal.

The Rector said that it is not just about the numbers. There has been little consideration about how the Children's Work ministry is integrated with the other ministries across the benefice, or how we minister to those we reach - the ministry has not followed the Children's work.

No-one is asking about progress against the vision for Children and Families Work, or what work is being completed day-to-day. At the moment the CFW's time is mostly taken up by Fledgelings and the Chilton Interactive service. There is no time for follow-up, e.g. for Baptism families, at the moment.

There has only been one part-time Children's Worker for some time. Sarah Barrett has done a lot of other work outside the services, that are not as visible as the Childrens groups, including visiting and staying in touch.

The Rector said that this is true, however Sarah has suggested more Children and Families work that she is keen to do, but there has been no one to listen to her suggestions and act on them. He and Sarah have reviewed how her time is spent, and Sarah has reconfigured her role to include some of her suggestions.

Some fantastic work is being carried out, but we are not doing some important work and the current structure is not motivating.

A Children's and Families Team could be formed to focus on this ministry, support the work and encourage those involved. This would create the space to listen to suggestions and feedback from the CFWs, and act on them.

There was some agreement with this, but these problems are not necessarily a failure of structure or the number of meetings.

The Rector agreed, but there are a lot of meetings and time spent talking. With fewer meetings, we use the time to do other things. Also, the CFW gives a report of what is happening, but no one is checking what the progress is being made against the original vision for Children's and Families Worker, so some of the opportunities for more CFW ministry can be lost. The work carried out is good, but the structure hides the current impact of the work against what we could do.

The discussions in meetings do lead to actions that the CFW carries out.

The Rector said that there is an ongoing problem that there are not enough conversations outside the PCC meetings. The PCC members should ask questions and engage more people in the congregations. Then the meetings we have will be business meetings, to take action or respond to changes or feedback received. The information we receive will massively improve the way we serve.

The CFW vision is not set out clearly and visibly.

The Rector agreed. A clear vision could be very useful, then a Children and Families work team could monitor progress against it.

The Children and Families work is a good example. Similar teams and groups could be formed for other areas of ministry, such as people with limited mobility. This is how PCCs should work.

There are too many changes at once.

The Rector said that there still needs to be more communication, space for listening and capacity for learning. Making fewer changes does not reduce the number of things that we need to consider, and there is a risk that everything will slow down.

In one sense, the Rector said that he does not mind if we have the same number or fewer meetings, but he has seen good practice in other parishes with fewer meetings. This enables quick responses to changes in circumstances.

We need to get ahead. The developers are applying for permission to build the first 262 houses in Greater Valley Park. We are at the beginning of 8,000 more people being added to the population. How do we reach them? When will enough people have moved in to form a church community if we try and set one up? Currently only the Rector and Sasha are considering these questions.

The decisions about reaching the communities in the previous local housing developments were made late. So, the ministry was always trying to catch up. We need to get ahead. More PCC meetings of the current type mean less time for business in the meetings and changes are made slowly. There could also be a series of informal meetings for conversations.

The Rector said that he is mainly here for people outside the Churches and how to reach them. The PCCs do not have exactly the same remit, but it would be good if the PCCs also have a missionary focus.

He summed up by saying that we have this proposal, which can be adapted as needed. We can deal with the problems and become a radical church, or we can delay dealing with them indefinitely.

Who will take this forward e.g. a small group to consider?

The Rector said that he would prefer to leave the proposal open. Opening up these matters is good, but we have not made a decision - it is an example of an item that is not decision-ready.

There could be an alternative proposal with a small group formed to look at proposals. He asked for suggestions after the meeting. There may not be one answer for the whole benefice, it would be better for this to be decided at parish level.

The Rector proposed that we continue with the current schedule, with suggestions sent to him.

NO OBJECTIONS.

A6 Other Joint Issues

A 6.1 Governance Consultation

Geoff Maughan has agreed to advise on governance. The Rector will find a date for the initial meeting when most people are available.

A 6.2 New Curate

The Rector reported that, as people will already be aware, Sasha Reeves has started work in the benefice. She is going on retreat until this Sunday as part of the process of considering what her ministry will be. This will take place over the first few of months after licencing, and includes formal discussions with the diocese. More information will be circulated soon. At licencing, Sasha changes from Curate Designate to Curate and the Rector changes from Training Incumbent Designate to Training Incumbent.

Sasha and her husband have appreciated the messages people have sent. It is an exciting moment. The Rector asked for prayers for them, for the retreat and that the transfer from All Saints Didcot to Harwell with Chilton goes well. Sasha will attend the churches on alternate Sundays from this Sunday onwards.

PCC members suggested sending a brief summary of this to the wider church soon.

The Rector agreed and said that a notice has already gone out to All Saint's Didcot and Great Western Park to let them know about the transfer. The next notice will have more substance, though the details have not been agreed between Sasha, the Rector and the Diocese so there is not much information at the moment.

Mixed messages are circulating already.

The Rector said that as PCC members are now briefed, they can pass this information on, and pass any questions back to him.

Some people have not got the first email.

The Rector said that there are a number of bad emails on the church distribution list, and others that are never checked. So, emails are not 100% reliable and conversations are an important part of church communications.

B Mission Strands

B 1 Children, Youth and Families

B 1.1 Update and Plans

Paper C refers: CFW Report June - September 2023: Sunday Groups, Fledgelings, Youth Fellowship, Schools, Youth Trust, and Holiday Club.

Jean Barton thanked Sarah Barrett for her work, agreed by all present.

A PCC member highlighted a point from the report: That we should consider ways of meeting the Holiday Club families through the year to build relationships. The PCC member suggested that we should do this before Holiday Club next year. The Rector said that Sarah and he had been talking about this before Holiday Club this year. She is keen for the churches to form relationships with the Holiday Club parents, but this requires volunteers and someone to lead them. There is no CFW team to hear this suggestion and follow it up, (or the other suggestions in the report).

The Rector has asked Sarah to write a review of where we are, where we could be, and how to close the gap.

The Rector said that he is incredibly grateful for Sarah Barret's work, there is much that has gone well.

B 1.2 CFW Recruitment

The Rector said that the advert for a part-time Children and Families Worker is now live. The original job description reflected the current job, and was too long. It has now been revised along with all of the documents and processes.

It is a rolling recruitment process, so we have a conversation when a candidate applies, rather than interviewing a batch of candidates. This is because there are not many Children and Families Workers available. There are lots of vacancies in the Deanery and some have been open for one or two years with no applications. We have had one application, but the candidate withdrew, and two more possible applications. Other parishes have had only one application in four months. There is no guarantee we will get anyone quickly as we did last time. It is a more complicated situation than other parishes with the Youth Trust involvement, and we can't pay for relocation.

The Rector and others are working hard and he is hopeful. We are getting candidates so we will recruit someone.

There were no comments.

The Rector and Sarah are moving the mindset of the Children and Families work from the edge of church life to the centre. This is at an early stage. It is quite a significant call and needs engaging very seriously.

B 1.3 Greater Didcot Youthwork Trust and Youth / Secondary Schools Work

Paper D: Youthwork trust report March - September 2023.

A PCC member said that the paper mentions year two and three, is there funding in place for year three?

The Rector said that the Trust has funding from multiple sources including the Diocese for one full – time person (currently one half-time person). The Diocesan funding is for 5 years, it is not given, but claimed by using it. So, if the funding is not used, it will not be given.

The Rector has just become a trustee of ECHO. There is a gap in funding and they are asking for support.

B 2 Evangelism and Discipleship of Adults

B 2.1a Home Groups

Jean Barton, Home Group coordinator, reported that the Tuesday Morning Group in Chilton Fields has grown from 3 or 4 attending to 10, and they have interesting discussions.

The groups are: two meeting on Monday, the Tuesday group mentioned above, two on Wednesday afternoon and one on Wednesday evening, a total of 6 groups with 60-70 people attending and children. It is beginning to increase after lockdown though some older people don't want to go out in the evenings.

Jean thanked everyone for their support. She added that she has wanted to step down from Home Group co-ordinator for the last 3 or 4 years, and asked any volunteers to talk to the Rector.

The Rector said that he is putting in place an oversight and support group, which Jean is welcome to join.

B 2.1b Central Courses e.g. Lent and Advent

Jean Barton said that the Lent and Advent courses were run for people not in home groups, and materials were also shared in the home groups and congregations. These stopped due to the lockdowns. The Rector said that he expected to run an Advent course and share the materials as before.

B 2.1c Alpha and Christianity Explored

The Rector reported that there had been a pre-launch last week at St Matthew's. The proper launch will be this Sunday. The course will start from the week after half term. We should think ahead, Alpha can encourage people on the edge of church to attend home groups.

A PCC member asked why Alpha was being run and not Christianity Explored.

The Rector said that this is because Alpha is much more ready to run. If it is successful, he will consider running Christianity Explored.

A PCC member asked why the Alpha Course was only launched at St Matthew's and not All Saints'.

The Rector said that this was a preview to gauge interest – to see if people respond to a message from the front as well as they have to conversations with him. The proper launch is to come.

The Christianity Explored course is designed as a safe place to ask questions about Christianity, for those interested in faith to probe the edges or for those new to the faith to go further.

The Anglican Church is not good at confronting discussions of different views held with integrity. This is a conversational model and allows exploration of beliefs where people don't necessarily need to completely agree.

B 2.2 Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Paper F refers: Pam Rolls said that the Pastoral Care report this includes a report on this item.

No comments.

B 2.3 Responding to Financial Need

B 2.3.1 CAP Money Courses

Naomi Gibson reported that seven CAP money coaches have been trained to run the new course. It is quite different, so they are hoping to run a practice course in November. It has been advertised in the bulletin for the last few weeks but no attendees have come forward as yet.

They have brought the new resources that go with the new course. The CAP team are grateful to the Feast Committee for giving them £100 towards the cost.

Two coaches have taken the introduction of the new courses to step down, Sid Gale, who has been coaching since 2015, and Peter Barclay-Watt. Thanks to both.

B 2.3.2 CAP Centre

Paper B refers: 69 clients are debt-free including 13 this year. Also: thanks to volunteers, events for clients, Melanie Shields is now a trained Debt Coach, and thanks to Harwell with Chilton for their continuing prayer, volunteer and financial support.

No comments.

B 2.3.3 Didcot Emergency Foodbank

No report or comments.

B 2.4 Social and Community

No report or comments.

B 3 Pastoral Care

B 3.1 Update Including appointing a Pastoral Lead for Harwell

Paper F refers: The paper conveyed thanks to all who carry out Pastoral Care, and covered recruitment of a new leader for Harwell. Also, Home Communion, Baptisms Weddings and Funerals, Generation Gold, and the monthly cafes in each church.

Pam Rolls highlighted the following from the report:

- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals were mentioned earlier (See item B2.2)
- Communion has been given to residents at Alma Barn Lodge.
- A Generation Gold service took place in September and more will be planned.
- There is an ongoing discussion with a possible new leader for Harwell pastoral care. A PCC member said that this was good news after many years of the role being vacant, and we should pray about this.

B 4 World Mission

B 4.1 Allocate World Missions budget for 2023

Paper K refers: World Mission Budget 2023. Allocations for each parish to missionary organisations and partners.

This is provided for review by the Combined PCC, and approval of the individual budgets by the Individual PCCs at their November meetings.

Helen Brook, World Mission Group (WMG) leader said that the group has four members and meets a number of times during the year to pray for the organisations and mission partners that we support.

She talked through the budget:

It is a similar format to previous years. The suggested budget for St. Matthew's is £8000 and All Saints' is £3200. The paper shows how this is broken down by organisations and partners. The group have allocated more to individuals raising money for themselves i.e. the Wilsons and Tabaccus because they are more susceptible to changes and less able to absorb increased costs than the organisations. It is a similar amount to the funding pattern last year. The partners and organisations are:

Mission Partners:

Chris and Suzy Wilson work for CMS in Ethiopia in theology and promoting peace.

Endri and Dyshi Tabaccu run a church in Albania.

Organisations:

These organisations were selected to represent the Church of England's Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom: **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).**
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers: **Scripture Union.**
- To respond to human need by loving service: **The Leprosy Mission.**
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation: **Chris and Suzy Wilson, Church Mission Society.**
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth: **Arocha**

A nominal amount is allocated to the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) who helped the benefice with the recruitment of a new Rector. They are not promoted as a mission partner or organisation.

B 4.2 Visits from Mission Partners

This year Chris and Suzy Wilson will visit to give an update on their work. In November the World Mission Group are organising an interactive Zoom chat with Endri and Dyshi Tabaccu with both congregations if the time difference allows.

The World Mission Group are discussing inviting speakers from other organisations next year.

B 4.3 Capital Project Update

Helen Brook said that this was discussed at the October 2022 Combined PCC meeting. There is a sum of money put aside from legacies left to St. Matthew's Church to fund a capital project. The original understanding was that this should be a building, but it was also stated that this could be any capital project. A World Mission Group Member and former Harwell PCC treasurer has reiterated that the funding was for a building, so the group will check.

There are a couple of possible building projects for one of the mission partners. If the group find that the funds can be used for any project, then there are multiple ways the funds could be used. The WMG will consider these and bring proposals to the PCCs.

Discussion ensued and Helen Brook answered questions:

A PCC member said that this has been going on for years, is it worth continuing with?

Helen Brook said that the funds had definitely been set aside, but not what they were to be used for. Rev Mobey has said the funds were for a capital project, but it was difficult to find something suitable for the organisations, so they considered a possibility with the mission partners. This possibility depends on if the funds are for a building, a capital project or something else.

The Churches Finances are stretched so should we reallocate the funds to somewhere else?

Helen Brook said that this is a decision for the PCCs. As she represents the WMG she would prefer that the funds stay with World Mission. If the funds are no longer available, then this is sensitive, and she will not talk to the mission partners to avoid giving false hope.

Is this just a question for the Harwell PCC only?

There was some agreement that it was.

Helen Brook asked the PCCs to let her know if they want her to participate in any discussions. She will report back in due course.

B 5 Worship Services

5.1 Revive

This was a contemporary worship gathering which took place in July.

The Rector said that this was well supported. There were a lot of people there, so some things did not work, but they discussed how to use quiet and space. Some work is needed on refreshments, and how to organise the church for this gathering. He intends running this again. We would not necessarily need to change the service pattern to do so.

C 1 Communications and Operations

C 1.1 Update and Plans

Paper E refers: Communications and Operations report September 2023: Weekly and Other Services, Chilton Chronicle and Harwell News, Weekly News Bulletin, Occasional Offices, Church Hall, Discussions with the Rector, and Other Activities.

A PCC member said that the report indicates the scale of tasks done, it is not easy, congratulations to Deborah Evans. The Rector thanked Deborah Evans for all she does.

Agreed by All Present.

The Rector said that Deborah is engaged with a lot of areas and the report does not cover all of them. A lot of what she does is not necessarily visible. She is also working through the backlog of out-of-date information on the website. There is now a form on the website to report out of date information. She is working with the software supplier on the website.

C 1.2 General Data Protection Regulations and C 1.3 Data Protection Policy

See item A4 Matters Arising.

C 1.4 Friendly Buildings

Debra Dewhurst reported that since the last Combined PCC meeting, a small team has met to discuss this, including Liz Roberts, Tony Hughes, Gordon Gill, who has experience with special needs, and Debra was formerly an audiologist.

Gordon Gill has produced a paper of steps to consider. Some are easy and low cost, including:

- Ensuring that the PA system works and the volume is correct.
- The speakers should speak clearly and face the congregation and not turn to look at the slides.
- Checking that the lighting at the lectern is correct so people can lip-read.
- If people are reading into the microphone this can obscure people's lips.

The group is proposing having a couple of sessions after the services, one each at St. Matthew's and All Saints'. The PA system will be kept running and people can have a chat or try out their hearing aids with the PA system. There may be areas in church where the system does not work.

Steve Hale reported that Chilton PCC is upgrading their audio-visual system, and as part of this they are proposing to replace the larger radio microphone with a smaller carbon microphone.

Tony Hughes added that the microphone in St Matthews can be bent to suit, but not everyone is aware of this.

The Rector asked what the group would need for this to happen. Following discussion, it was agreed that the group will make arrangements with the churchwardens.

ACTION: Friendly Buildings Group to arrange two sessions with Churchwardens.

The Rector said that this can be repeated as necessary to make further improvements. It is encouraging to see the time after the services used for conversations and improvements, it is a good way of encouraging communications with the wider congregations.

C 2 Stewardship and Finances

C 2.1 Update and Plans

No report or comments.

C 2.2 Plans for raising money to cover the Administrator's salary

See item A4 matters arising.

C 2.3 Benefice Parish Share

No report or comments.

C 3 Safeguarding

C 3.1 Update and Plans and C 3.2 Safeguarding training of PCC members

Paper E refers: Safeguarding Report: Holiday Club, Safeguarding Training of PCC members, DBS checks completed, be aware and ready to listen to vulnerable Adults, Risk Assessments – forms available, Parish Dashboard, Sue Greatbanks has completed the domestic abuse training.

There were no comments.

C 4 Staffing and Leadership

C 4.1 Update and Plans

The Rector reported that the main focus is on recruitment of a Children and Families Worker. It is complicated due to involvement with the ECHO Youth Trust.

C 4.2 Kate Evans Authorisation to Preach and Lead

The Rector said that this also includes funerals. He asked if the meeting was happy that Kate Evans continues for another 5 years on that basis. This enables him to lodge the paperwork with the Diocese.

Straw poll carried. Passed by the JPCC by implication.

Resolution	The Joint PCC approve the authorisation of Mrs Kate Evans to preach and lead services in Harwell and Chilton for a further five-year term.				
Proposed	Rector	Seconded	-	Passed by the JPCC	Unanimous.

Peter Cox, CPCC secretary, proposed that he writes a letter of thanks to Kate Evans.

The Rector said that the letter to the Diocese about this will be quite short.

ACTION: Combined PCC Secretary to write a letter of thanks to Kate Evans

ACTION: Rector or Church Administrator to write to Diocese

C 4.3 Employment Committee

Paper A refers: Employment Committee Report

Hazel Benton, Employment Committee Chair, highlighted the following from the report: There has not been a need for discussion by email or a committee meeting. She is pleased to report that two people have volunteered to be on the committee.

The Rector said that it was good to hear that more people have volunteered, and thanked Hazel Benton for her report.

C 5 Wider Church

C 5.1 Deanery and Diocesan Synod

Sid Gale said that there has not been a Deanery or Diocesan synod meeting since the last Combined PCC meeting. The next one is in November.

C 5.2 Great Western Park and Valley Park

The Rector reported that Sasha is in the process of exploring her ministry including in Valley Park. Her Curacy always had a special focus on Valley Park.

The first developer has permission to build and a second is applying for permission. The Rector and Sasha will take on one development each. The Diocesan plan for Valley Park is just the Rector and Sasha to pursue ministry in this area. They will collaborate with Great Western Park, and Western Valley Parish Council has recently been formed. He wants to be friendly; objectives are being explored, and there will be great opportunities to collaborate.

It is a significant opportunity for Sasha’s (and the Rector’s) work. There is not much detail, we only know that houses will be built, but not how quickly. Valley Park will become very important in time. There is much to do before then to ensure that we connect with the developments. We should have groups that focus on this.

It is an exciting time for the Rector and Sasha to begin their ministry here.

Debra Dewhurst said that she is a District Councilor and may be able to provide more information on house building planning. The Rector said that he and Sasha would meet with her to discuss this.

C6 Any Other Business

C 6.1 Online Broadcast Software for Meetings

Hazel Benton proposed that the Benefice investigate and obtains a professional licence for Zoom, as the online linking software “Whereby” had not worked well for this meeting. Attendees can’t see everyone else, people are disconnecting, and there is an echo.

Discussion ensued, including:

- A couple of PCC members have access to Zoom subscriptions which could be made available.
- The Rector has access to Whereby, and Google Meet for Nonprofit, but understands this does not work that well. He also has MS Teams for nonprofit, but this does not work well for hybrid meetings.
- A PCC member suggested that we return to face-to-face meetings at some point.
- The Rector replied that we should look also at hybrid meetings: Some prefer face-to-face meetings and others prefer online. It would be good not to privilege one group over the other. Whereby is good for multi in-person audio.
- We could try a 3-month licence initially.

After further discussion, Hazel Benton said that she would investigate and talk to the PCC treasurers about funding.

ACTION: Hazel Benton to investigate online meeting software.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 21:58.

Dates of next meetings:

Individual PCCs: 7th November 2023, All Saints’ Chilton

Combined PCC: 4th June 2024 online

These minutes were approved at the CPCC meeting on: _____ Date

CHAIR

SECRETARY