

ALL SAINTS BIDDENDEN PCC

Minutes of virtual Zoom meeting of the PCC held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Alex Bienfait (Chair), Ann Courtness, Paul Webster, Julie Lupton, Peter Cutts, Joanna Winston, Tanya Ling (Minutes secretary)

Item		Action
1	The meeting opened in prayer.	
2	Apologies for absence. There were none.	
3	Minutes of the previous meetings held on 7th July 2020 Minutes were adopted as a true record and approved online and to be signed in the office by Alex	
4	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 - Church cleaners attending on an ad hoc basis. • Item 5 – APCM date has been agreed as 19th October at the church and on Zoom • Item 6 – Ann to arrange a meeting with Mark Clixby • Item 8 – toilet twinning is complete and Julie has the certificates which can be placed in the church toilets • Item 12 – Alex has not spoken yet with the telephone tree volunteers. It is still being used and well received 	AC
5	Open Forum Paul Webster has expressed that he will step down as a member of the PCC after the APCM in October.	
6	Covid 19 update and Rectors report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social need - Bobbie Hewitt has stopped the Biddenden Food Bank as there is no remaining food so no food to distribute for Harvest service. Monthly parish council meeting is a useful community meeting. • Zoom services continue to be popular online. • Active Church online has been less successful and hoping face to face services will be more successful. • Alex still considering when to move • Face to face services are being encouraged by the Diocese. Biddenden and Smarden services are being held every Sunday including September and October service plan proposals. Harvest service outlined but still to be confirmed. • Welcome leaflet – in progress • Mark Wilson, the organist, is now playing at services. • Walk Church started in July with two small groups walking in opposite directions. • Biddenden star has been taken down from Smarden church tower. Action Alex and Peter Courtness to move the Advent star back to Biddenden 	AB/PC
7	Finance update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter sent out the finance documents before the meeting for the PCC to review. • Carr legacy enables us to survive the remainder of the year without touching the investment reserves. • Premium for Ecclesiastical insurance for 2021 of approx. £4k Action Peter to wait for the estimate in October. • Parish Council grant received for £500 for churchyard upkeep. Chris Cox has sent a thank you letter Action Office will draft and post a thank you letter from the PCC • The Diocesan Finance Office has requested a COVID-19 impact analysis on the Church's 2020 and 2021 finances. This has been drafted by Peter and reviewed by the PCC, who have approved its return to the Finance Office. 	PC Office

All Saints Biddenden Reservation of grave spaces Policy

The PCC considered the issue of reservation of grave space in All Saints Churchyard on 10th January 2017, and have considered the issue on 6th November 2018, and 8th September 2020.

The PCC do not offer reservation of grave space for the following reasons:

- 1.Space constraints. Even with the enlarged area in which we have been recently granted permission to bury, space remains limited.
- 2.Danger of setting a precedent. Concern that there could be a unseeingly scramble to reserve space.
- 3.Reservation would be immensely complex to administer. Coupled with serious consequences should mistakes be made.
4. It is difficult to set a time limit on any reservation. Individual people's plans can change, and there is never any guarantee that a burial actually will take place.

It is the policy of Biddenden PCC to offer space burial space next in line within the current row. This does not apply for the 2nd burial in double depth graves. Burials in other locations, will be considered in exceptional pastoral circumstances, subject to available space, and subject to PCC approval.

All Saints Biddenden PCC

17th January 2017

Revised 6th November 2018.

Revised and approved 8th September 2020.

Email trail for the approval for the Proposal to recruit new church architect and proposal for a structural survey of the Tylden Pattenson area due to falling masonry and plaster :-

On 19 Aug 2020, at 16:41, Alex Bienfait <rector@sbcofe.org> wrote:

Dear PCC members,

With still a few weeks before we next meet, a couple of issues and proposals have come up.

Following the recent movement in the north wall of the church, falling masonry and plaster, and visible movement in the floor around the Tylden Pattenson chapel area we need professional advice from a structural engineer.

[Link to photos of the Tylden Pattenson Chapel area](#)

As a preliminary step I am suggesting a survey for the reasons set out in the proposal attached.

Secondly we are proposing to start the process to recruit a new Church inspecting architect. We should be aware that this will increase our costs, but as we look to the future, and the Quinquennial of 2021 we need a younger architect.

We suggest, rather than give an immediate response, to consider the proposals for a few days, ask any questions, but give your response by Saturday?

Best wishes

Alex.

Dear all,

As you know, I have been suggesting a new architect for sometime, so absolutely in agreement, Ann

Dear Alex, I support both of the proposals of a survey and to recruit a new church architect.

Kind regards, Ann

Dear Alex & Julie,

I can understand why we need to find a new architect& as this process is very likely to be lengthy the sooner it is underway the better.

Meanwhile the survey must be done & with some speed., Joanna.

Dear Alex,

I am happy to support my own proposal to recruit a new architect. e. I agree that the proposal to have a survey of the Tylden Pattenson and North Aisle movement will be useful to add to the information we currently hold on this. I trust that it can be done in half a day with no add-ons. Kind regards,Julie

Dear Alex ,I support (i) the proposal for a digital survey of the chapel, and (ii) the proposal to look for a new inspecting architect,Best wishes, PeterC

Proposal to employ a new inspecting church architect.

Proposal we resolve to recruit and employ a new inspecting church architect before the end of 2020.

Currently we employ George Denny whose knowledge of the church is phenomenal. His loyalty to the church is unquestionable and his bills have been minimal. He's been the architect for more than 20 years as far as I know. However, he is elderly and if we want to move forward then 2021 Quinquennial should, I believe, be done by someone else.

I believe George Denny must carry on with the East end work with Goodsell as he designed the job specification and will charge us accordingly. However I would like PCC approval to talk to George with regard to our not using him for other projects going forward.

Process of recruitment I now have the list of approved architects from the DAC. I would like to form a small working group to look at these, to draw up a list of possible architects and approach them to see if they are interested. Then I suggest we invite a shortlist of 3 for interviews before making any appointments.

Julie Lupton, 19 August 2020

PCC Proposal: Initiate a survey of the Tylden Pattenson chapel, using CAD Surveys Ltd, at a cost of £275 + VAT.

Following the recent movement in the north wall of the church, the falling masonry and plaster, the visible movement in the floor around the Tylden Pattenson chapel area, we need professional advice from a structural engineer.

Please see separate link to photographs of the damage.

As a preliminary step I propose we initiate a survey of the chapel.

1. Such a survey will provide a comprehensive set of drawing to give engineers accurate information as to the position and the degree to which the walls are out of alignment.
2. The survey will provide a benchmark against which future movement can be monitored. Establishing what the long term pattern of movement is will be essential for engineers to make informed recommendations. This can potentially save huge sums of potentially unnecessary work in the future.
3. This survey would provide accurate drawings in a format that Structural engineers can put into their own computer aided design systems.
4. I am surprised such a survey has not previously been recommended by engineers in the past. However, with advances in digital technology such surveys have become much more economic, and possibly been regarded as too costly. I personally have used the company recommended, for our planned house extension. Our architect was delighted with the quality of the drawings they provided.

I propose the cost is drawn from the fabric fund (if funds available), but if not, from the Richard Carr legacy.

Best wishes

Rev'd Alex Bienfait, 19th August 2020