

St Margaret of Antioch, Crick

~Responding to God's Love~

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting held in the Old School, Crick

Wednesday 16 September, 2009

The Reverend David Lake opened the meeting with a short act of worship.

Present:	Chairman	The Reverend David Lake
	Acting Secretary	Rosanna Atkins
	Church Warden	Dave Milne
	Church Warden	Craig Walford
		Andy Hopkins
		Julia Potts
		Alan Leach
		Colin Mynott
		Patricia Lake
		Catherine Morrish

Meeting opened at 7.30pm:

David opened the meeting by reading from Isaiah 58:9-12. After reading this passage (and before praying), he explained briefly that this was the passage of Scripture that had led him to come to the Crick Benefice in 2005 and how it was being realised now.

Item 1

Apologies: Nigel Howard

Item 2

Notification of any other business – Update on organ, Sexton's hut, Marketing & Publicity

Item 3

Signing of the Minutes

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on the 21 January, 2009 were signed by the Revd. David Lake as being accurate and correct. One copy to be placed in the master file and one displayed in the church porch notice board.

Item 4

Matters arising from the meeting on Wednesday 3 June, 2009

Craig investigated viability re: boilers. Good to use. Carried out bond test. Flue cap needs replacing. Conversion not an option due to costs. Needs barrier around for safety. Will address usage at a future date.

Item 4a

We were pleased to welcome Richard Atterbury to the meeting. Richard recently visited Moulton Church and wished to share some ideas that he took away from that visit. For example, a large screen has been installed so that parishioners can share the hymns whilst singing instead of looking down into their hymnbooks. They have also upgraded their heating and lighting system.

Most importantly, they have a vision of their church moving into the 21st century, diversifying the use of the church and making it the focal point of their community. Richard bought with him a plan of that vision which Dave M has kindly offered to scan and forward to the PCC. David L thanked him for his time and his thoughts. Richard then left the meeting.

Item 5

Correspondence

None

Item 6

FOSM Update

Dave Sweeney presented an update on FOSM.

- Communication between the PCC and FOSM has improved considerably. A member of FOSM will now attend in person for regular updates.
- FOSM have now exhausted all areas of grants which they can access independently. They will now need PCC support for future grants.
- Quinquennial inspection highlighted certain danger zones. (see also item 8) Due to insurance liabilities, FOSM intend to withdraw from future events to be held in the church until these have been rectified. They have changed the Harvest Festival to the Old School.
- FOSM have requested that the ringing of the church bells problem is addressed.
- Mr Barker, English Heritage architect has been paid £800 for the preparation of our Heritage Application. FOSM have also ratified Mr Barker.
- Patricia mentioned that no request was made for installation of the FOSM “Tower Graph” showing their fundraising totals. Dave S apologised for this oversight and asked for clarification on who to approach for this type of approval. It was agreed that the two churchwardens would be appropriate.

Item 7

Sunday Services

Craig Walford delivered what was widely agreed to be an exceptional presentation for a Single Sunday Service. After much discussion the motion “*do you think we should move to one Sunday service at 10.00am?*” was made. The vote was follows:

In Favour – 8

Opposed – 1

Therefore the motion was carried.

Alan Leach requested that his dissention was noted.

A discussion on the format of the service was deferred to the next meeting.

Any feedback to be carried to Craig Walford.

Item 8

Church Building Repair Overview

Dave Milne explained the construction of the tower. Above the bell tower, the east face is badly eroded and cracked. If the bells continue to be rung, there is a danger the tower will fall even more prematurely. There is also the question of insurance – claims and liability, it was agreed that Colin Mynott would look into the insurance question. (Colin actioned this Thursday 17 September – his report is below)

“If damage is noted, known about and nothing is done about it, we are liable, not the insurer. That is regarded as gross negligence.

If damage is noted, known about, and we have action in hand to make it safe, we are covered. This applies if someone were injured between the time of our knowing about it and a repair being made. They acknowledge that repairs take time to arrange, which is not our fault.

For example, this would apply between the time of knowing and boarding a window; or, if it were not possible to board the window for a recorded good reason, between knowing about it and the repair being done.

And if we rope off an area to prevent access, and someone ignores the warning, we are covered. So having been warned in writing, if G Brown rings the bells and the tower falls on him, we are not liable nor will he get compensation. I'm not sure how much they would meet towards repairing the organ however.”

In light of the Quinquennial report and the report of Mr Barker (English Heritage architect) it is the unanimous decision of the PCC that bell-ringing cease, with immediate effect. A letter to Mr Brown to be drawn up with that decision.

The windows need boarding up as a matter of urgency. Dave M to talk to John Barker for advice on this as we do need to make the windows accessible for future grant inspections. Colin to investigate insurance implications (see above).

A number of repairs can be done ourselves. Dave M will compile a repair list and form a team to carry them out.

John Barker and a field engineer will be meeting with the PCC to appraise and evaluate where we are.

Item 9

Back to Church Sunday

27 September 2009. 9.45am. Dave Milne volunteered to overprint invitations.

Item 10

Ratification of a statement by the PCC justifying the selection of John Barker (our church surveyor) for our English Heritage funding application.

Sub-committee:

Dave Sweeney

Nigel Howard

Andy Hopkins

The following statement has been agreed:

I write on behalf of the Parochial Church Council to advise you regarding the appointment of our existing church surveyor to act as our lead professional advisor for the potential grant aided project at the church of St Margaret, Crick, Northamptonshire.

We would wish to confirm details of our professional advisor as follows:

John C Barker MRICS FCIQB FRSA IHBC

Chartered Building Surveyor

Ecclesiastical and Historic Buildings Consultant

The Beeches

19 Hatton Avenue

Wellingborough

Northamptonshire
NN8 5AP
Telephone: 01933 441225 Fax: 01933 441556
Email: johnbarker@btconnect.com

We believe that the continuation of the existing appointment of Mr Barker is in the best interests of the church, particularly bearing in mind his long association with the building, involving successive Quinquennial Inspections and various phases of repair and conservation work over the years.

The last major repair work was in 2004 for the repairing of window 7 on the North side of the church above the sacristy. We have been very pleased with the quality of workmanship and the management of the project. Mr Barker has also provided helpful advice and guidance over two of earlier smaller projects such as our Millennium stone floor and restoration of the Bells in the Tower.

Mr Barker has previously acted as lead professional advisor for other churches receiving grant aid from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund and is familiar with the procedures and conditions of grant which apply. Mr Barker is conservation accredited and therefore meets the requirement of the grant scheme. His experience in the field of church work is considerable and he is currently retained as advisor on more than 40 grade I listed buildings.

We consider that the project advisor cost fees for this restoration project, as entered on the funding grant application form, and negotiated between our sub-committee members and Mr Barker, to be competitive.

For all these reasons we feel that it is reasonable to request the retention of our existing building surveyor for this project, particularly bearing in mind the significant time which has been expended by him in preparing intermediate reports, budget costing and general advice preparatory to the necessary works being undertaken.

The PCC agreed ratification of John Barker.

Item 11
AOB

Sexton's Hut

The Sexton's Hut needs some work. The Parish Council is very kindly prepared to do and pay for the work when we decide what to do. The options are:

1. Demolish
2. Remove the roof, and replace with a flat roof
3. Dismantle the existing roof and re-build it

The PCC's preference is for option 3 and David will communicate this to Danny Tolfts (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council) with the stipulation of the need to liase with John Barker for further advice.

Update on organ

Hopefully ready in advance of organ recital

The Reverend Thistlewaite (National Organ Advisor for the Church) has played and is quite happy
Pew can be taken out and stored in Craig's office

Marketing & Publicity

Julia voiced her concerns at the lack of publicity for any events. For example, “Back to Church” and the “Harvest Festival”. There also seems to be a lack of information for important services such as Christmas.

It was agreed that a promotions sub-committee be formed to address these issues. The sub-committee is:

Craig Walford
Dave Milne
Julia Potts

It was also agreed that the churchwardens will draft a letter to villagers to inform them of all our news.

Finally, not wishing to detain members further, David handed out copies of the most recent Deanery Synod report (2 July 2009) for perusal.

The meeting closed at 10.10 with the group saying *The Grace* together.

Next meeting: THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 8.00pm (PLEASE NOTE TIME)