

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes
Monday 5th December 2022**

Attendees: Fr. Quentin Jackson, Kit Tranmer, Michelle Spears, Lorna Spears, Andrew Dodd, Sarah Dodd, Paul Turpin, Rob Fernandez, Peter Robson, Mike O'Sullivan, Matthew Ives, Debbie Giddings, Donna Patros

Apologies for Absence: Geraldine Mansbridge,

Meeting Chair: Michael O Sullivan

Minutes – the minutes of the October meeting were approved

Items for Consideration – Updates were given on: -

Cycle Store – Michelle is engaging with Bernard Hunter who will provide a base for fixing the store -things are moving slowly ahead but unlikely to happen before the Spring 2023

Alcohol Licence – A premises license has been granted covering the whole estate and will be overseen by the BCC. It is not designed or expected to lead to an increase in the number of occasions alcohol is provided but simply ensure what we do is legal.

Tennis Club Lights – original application was rejected – a revised application has been submitted -if successful the PPC will be asked to confirm permission to proceed.

Church Sound System – information just received indicates that the chosen company is no longer able to complete the tender. The project group will now have to put together a new specification and ask a new company to tender with all the subsequent delays involved.

Huts- the total cost was about £27,000. We have planning permission for a third hut until 2024. This may be required as the remaining hut is not in good condition and is currently being assessed.

Finances – Recent letters from FC Chair were discussed. The finances seem to be in good shape. We now have the final costs of the heating project which is £34k less than budgeted for. There was some query as to where the Gift Money was – this is currently in the Parish Account -to be transferred to the Restoration Fund account when reconciled. It was felt that we should make the final payment to the Friars and clear our debt asap.

Scaffold Tower – Rob informed us the new tower had been purchased and was being stored in the Friary Garage. It cost ~£1200.

Altar Rail – a company has been selected and will be visiting the church on Thursday 8th Dec to finalise the issue.

Mental Health – Andrew presented a signed Service Level Agreement from St Anthony's and hopes to have one from Trinity in the near future. Both schools are extremely grateful for the support we are giving them and fully accept the terms & conditions documented by the FC. Trinity has 30+ children currently in need of help which the school cannot currently provide.

Site Safety – Debbie and Rob gave an excellent and clear PowerPoint presentation regarding safety in the a) front car park area b) pedestrian entrances and crossings c) Grasscrete area d) Path to the Tennis Courts. This included looking at the lighting, safety of steps and rails and ways the periphery of the site could be made less accessible and / or more visible. Issues of planting and /or cutting back shrubbery, fencing, lighting, marking of pedestrian areas were all discussed. Most broadly in agreement however it was suggested that Rob and Debbie return with costings and then we can then make and agree the final project.

Questions arose during this discussion as to who pays for the electricity of the TC lighting is installed as some lighting may need to be installed not only on the courts but the paths through the Rose Garden. To be clarified.

School Parking – re letter from Mrs Poulter. A long discussion took place on the topic. The car park is now very congested on weekdays with 40+ cars on site at 10am in the morning. This causes problems when the church is busy. Two issues were important – a) the most needy of St Anthony’s staff use the car park, - b) as the car park is unregulated we cannot in any case stop anyone parking. Agreed that KT would write to Mrs P allowing the parking to continue until the end of the current academic year but with the following requisites **a)** they try and park on the Grasscrete area so the front park is available for parishioners **b)** should the car park be urgently needed (for say a funeral) they would not park on that day if given 48hrs notice **c)** Should a cleaning / clearing of the car park by volunteers be organised they should help if at all possible. To be reviewed again June 2023.

Christmas Tree & Crib – will be on the weekend 17/18th Dec by the Spears Family and Friars

Synodality – Fr Quentin gave a brief update as to where we are

Groups

Becket Centre – Paul Turpin requested the BCC be allowed to spend £2000 on hiring an architect to give an assessment & opinion on how the Henrietta Suite should be developed. It was felt that we needed greater clarity on what the architect was being asked to do and Michelle also questioned as to whether we needed two or three quotes for this.

Guides - Sarah – mentioned they are near to collapse as unable to find new leaders. Suggested they make an appeal at Church. **The Scout hut** is also becoming unfit for purpose.

Advent – no plans made in time -Peter though now looking to arrange something in Lent

Adoration – Debbie looking into this

Restoration Fund Event – Mike and Michelle have this in hand

Garden Fete and Xmas Fayre – both made money £10,000 and £6000)

Bereavement Service – went well with Michelle working with Lesley B.

Coronation Event May 6th 2023 – it has been suggested that we stream this in the Henrietta Suite with some refreshments – **Lorna** agreed to look at this. Mike suggested Prosecco Stalls

Next Meeting – Jan 30th at 8 pm Becket Centre