

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

**Minutes
Monday 12th June 2023**

Attendees : Sarah Dodd, Andrew Dodd, Kit Tranmer, Mike O'Sullivan, Rob Fernandez, Fr. Quentin Jackson, Fr. Isidore Faloona, Michelle Spears, Lorna Spears, Donna Patros, Debbie Giddings, Peter Robson, Geraldine Mansbridge

Bernard Hunter in attendance

Apologies for Absence: Paul Turpin & Matthew Ives

Meeting Chair: Mike O'Sullivan

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

- **Becket Centre - progress**

It was noted that an architect had been appointed but the survey was yet to be undertaken.

- **Diocesan Offer for Youth Leader between Parishes**

It was reported that no comments had been received from the display of posters in the Church. It was acknowledged that the other parishes were not interested in pursuing a joint venture. It was agreed that next steps for looking at engagement activity at STOC should commence with a review of the survey undertaken by the confirmation programme lead catechists. Mike agreed to liaise and report back at the next meeting.

- **Premises issues including Friary Boundaries**

Following a review of the Church boundaries, it had been discovered that the neighbours on the north side of the church had erected a fence which comes right up to the church. It appears that this may be contrary to a covenant that had been put in place by the developers following the original sale of the land. A meeting has been arranged for 19th June to explore with the neighbours there understanding of the issue.

- **Cycle Store**

Michelle reported that discussions are continuing with the contractors about the removal of the cycle rack and installation of one appropriate to our specifications. She was hoping this would be resolved as soon as possible.

- **Church Sound System**

A report had been submitted with proposals for improving the sound system in the Church. The proposals ranged from £42k to £75k(including contingency)

The PPC considered four areas and agreed as follows:

Decision 1 – The PPC supported the approach to take forward the higher quality proposals

Decision 2 – The PPC agreed to allow the project team to make the final decision on the supplier

Decision 3 – The PPC, following a vote, agreed to the higher budget proposal subject to final approval by the Finance Committee, who would also need to be satisfied that the procurement procedures were followed.

Decision 4 – The PPC wished to be informed of the progress of the project.

- **Tennis Club**

A paper was presented about the floodlight proposals for the tennis courts.

Fr Isidore asked about the lighting between the car park and tennis courts. In response, Bernard stated that they will not be installing any lighting in that area as it will not add materially to safety. Fr Isidore also asked about the impact of leaf fall during the winter and slippery surfaces. Bernard stated that the area had been substantially pruned and cut back, including the removal of trees; new courts had been laid with the guarantee that they will remain moss free. There will also be advice to members that if the surface is damp the courts should not be used.

A discussion took place on the question of the loan from the OFM, as there were concerns that no liability should fall on the parish should the FTC not be able to meet the loan repayments.

Reference was made to progress on a review of the tennis club constitution to recognise the role and relationship between the OFM, PPC and Tennis Club in the future. It was noted that this should be place soon.

The PPC on balance decided to support the proposal but wished to see a full analyse that the FTC can meet the cost of installation and operation of the new lights with a reassurance that there is no commitment or responsibility in financial terms rested in the Parish.

- **Preparation for AGM 9th July including elections**

Arrangements are in place for the financial report to be prepared and published in line with the constitution.

- **Hosting of Ukraine Family**

Kit informed the meeting that the second six-month hosting was coming to an end and that there was a need to review the current arrangements. The Custos had provided reassurance that the family would not be asked to move out without good

reason. However, the Order was going through change, which may result in a need for the accommodation to be available for Friars in the near future. A meeting is planned for 13th June to discuss with the Refugee Committee what to do at the end of the period of hosting, which includes looking at alternative accommodation option through the local council.

- **Permission for car parking by schools**

Agreement was given to extend the use of the car park by the two schools until April 2024. In doing this the Schools should be informed that this is primarily a car park for church users and that the arrangements may not continue. There was also a wish that the places should be used for lower paid employees.

- **IT development**

Discussion on this matter was postponed to the next meeting.

- **Forward Look Dates**

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| ○ Restoration Thank You Event | Postponed |
| ○ Joint Summer Fete | 24 th June |
| ○ Outdoor Mass | 2 nd July |
| ○ Adoration | 15 th /16 th September |
| ○ Bereavement Service | 19 th November |
| ○ Christmas Fayre | 25 th November |

- **Joint Summer Fete**

Following a request, it was agreed that Andrew and Geraldine would sort out arrangements for the money on the day.

Quentin mentioned that much to his disappointment he would miss the fete as the School had changed the date.

- **Well-being in Schools**

Andrew reported that the schools have put the Church's donation to great use and that the students it is helping would have not received the support otherwise.

- **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7th August at 8pm