

Friends of Chulmleigh Parish Church  
Minutes of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
7pm at 24 Land Park

Present: Kevin Avery (KA); Colin Burls (CB); Margaret Jury (MJ); Marion Mair (MM); Karen Povey (KP)

Apologies– Reverend Tony Rockey (TR)

**1. Welcome**

MM welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending.

**2. Minutes – November meeting**

There being no issues, the Minutes were duly signed off by MM

**3. Matters arising**

None

**4. Rector's update**

TR had given his apologies for this meeting but had provided an alternative date (4<sup>th</sup> April) which MM, CB and KP were able to oblige. Summary:-

*Marion opened the meeting and handed over to Tony for an update:-*

*There are 2 urgent outstanding items from the Quinquennial report as follows:-*

- 1) Piece of masonry on top of the tower to be repaired. TR to liaise with Andrew Dart*
- 2) Bell frame requires work where the metalwork goes in to the tower walls. A report will be needed prior to any works and an architect from Kingsbridge has recommended a structural engineer to carry this out. There will be fees involved.*

*As regards the 'bigger picture', TR and Elaine Cook are working with Devon Communities Together to submit a bid to Awards for All for £10k to help with the feasibility/consultation phase. The application has to show both a community and religious use. It is hoped to submit this month (April).*

*£2k of this money will be needed for the consultation, development of plans, feasibility and options to cover surveyor/quantity surveyor fees to identify the essential works. Funds will also be needed for the Faculty and Grant applications.*

*TR explained that in 2018 work was undertaken to clear out the damaged woodwork and treat everything for dry rot and woodworm including the tower frame, to prevent future damage. The advice from the architect was not to re-install a wooden floor and so the suggestion is lime screed which will be very costly. Due to the various levels in the church TR wishes to consider the options for being able to level the floor which he says will give the building more flexibility, heat parts of the building, add a mezzanine floor and install a toilet. Levelling the floor will require a watching archaeological brief as it's possible there is a crypt at the back.*

*The work would be done on a priority and like to do basis, in phases, over the long term.*

*Some positive news about the boiler in that it is cast iron and will last another 20 years. The burner is now properly set and refurbished but there are issues with the fuel tank in respect of capacity, siting and compliance.*

*In the short term, TR recognises the support of the Friends with regarding to the clock, ongoing maintenance and in support of applications eg the monument, because any grant application that can state a donation is a benefit.*

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*CB asked if the huge costs that are going to be involved are justifiable, particularly from a Community perspective, as Chulmleigh as many venues used by local organisations eg Town Hall, Pavilion, Golf Club, School.*

*TR feels the addition of a toilet will help with public events and make them more viable and the lime screed floor will avoid the issue of dry rot as it is a breathable substance. The Diocese are becoming more aware of moisture issues and carpets are no longer to be used, to avoid this.*

*MM enquired about the pews, TR was unsure about their removal but CB advised that the Diocese is adamant these 'can't be touched' due their history.*

*KP felt that the actual look of the back of the church must be very disappointing for visitors and those families who are planning weddings, it would be nice to try and remove the 'building site' look. She also asked about a timeframe and it was hoped to see some work commence in 2020.*

The summary was discussed by all present. MM commented that she had been approached by people who were unhappy with how the church looked.

It was agreed by all present that whilst we recognised TR's desire for the long-term plans for the building, the Friends would like to see it restored as per the re-ordering undertaken 5 years ago. To avoid a repeat of the issues, it was suggested that a waterproof membrane be installed with treated joists and a wooden floor fitted in an economical native wood, without carpet.

#### **5. Church Clock**

KA advised that the clock is currently running okay. He has spoken to a clockmaker in South Molton and been given some advice on how to do a repair which he will try but if this does not resolve the issue then he will get back in touch with Smith of Derby who have confirmed that their previous quote still stands.

KA has also requested that his honorarium payment be stopped with the monies used by the Friends for the preservation of the building which is very generous of him.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Current account balance is £3620.29

The COIF account balance is £31,327.32 as at the end of March.

KA is waiting for the statement and will then organise the end of year accounts. He will also speak to Lesley Drew for assistance with the Gift Aid aspect.

#### **7. Coffee Morning**

The Friends coffee morning at the Town Hall is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. KP happy to organise and the following has been agreed:-

KA – Provide 2 floats and do the Town Run

MJ & MM – serve on the stall

CB – Round up willing volunteers to make savoury and sweet goodies for the sales table and do the Bonus Ball on the day

KP – Do the raffle on the day, liaise with Mary Pickard about running the kitchen, purchase refreshments and raffle books.

**All – to provide draw prizes, items for the sales table including bric-a-brac**

## 8. AGM

Provisionally booked for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm in the Parish Church

AP – KP to write to the Rector to confirm availability and book and enquire about refreshments

AP – KA to organise accounts and MM to produce the Chair's report

AP – KP to start to prepare all necessary correspondence to be sent to members

## 9. Correspondence Received

1) Invoice from Sylvia Croucher to cover her expenses for the Christmas Card project. Cheque prepared and delivered to Sylvia.

2) Donation from Mr Chris Ponder of Avonholme, Kings Nympton, EX37 9SS. KP to prepare a letter of acknowledgement for MM's signature

## 10. AOB

The Church Fete is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. CB has kindly agreed to organise a 'table' to promote the Friends. Help from committee members on the day will be appreciated. Unfortunately, KP not available as will be returning from holiday that day.

Meeting closed at 7.53pm.

marion main

3rd. September 2019.