
Friends of Chulmleigh Parish Church
Minutes of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday 3rd December 2019
7pm at The Old Bakehouse

Present: Colin Burls (CB); Sylvia Croucher (SC); Paul Holmes (PH); Margaret Jury (MJ); Marion Mair (MM); Karen Povey (KP)

Apologies– Kevin Avery (KA); Reverend Tony Rockey (TR)

1. Welcome

CB welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes and Matters arising – October meeting

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

3. Matters arising

Church Clock – C/F to January meeting

Outstanding fees – To be discussed

New Members – Articles in both Molton Monthly and Cross Reference. Flyers passed to PH.

Co-opting Committee members - to be discussed

Rector's update:-

TR had confirmed that he would not be attending the meeting as there would be no update however, the following issues were raised:-

PH – has received numerous comments about the lack of progress with the rear of the church and how it would be helpful for members/community to know what exactly is happening. It would make a difference if the area was, at least, cleared of rubble etc. although SC wondered if there was an embargo on this due to the nature of the contents.

PH – are there any plans for the memorial garden? A lot of people visit the lower graveyard simply to enjoy the glorious views. Could our next fundraising project be linked to that? SC questioned that this wouldn't fit with the purpose of the Friends being responsible for the fabric of the church and is aware that previous projects not directly linked has led to a loss of members.

CB – has obtained a copy of the Quinquennial report from Sue Croft and PH had, in fact, met with Jonathon Rhind, the author, through his work with the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Hopefully TR will be able to attend our next meeting to comment on the above together with the following outstanding items:-

Update on roof inspection by Andrew Dart - TR had been in discussion with Andrew Dart and the next roof inspection is scheduled for the Autumn when Andrew will also inspect the masonry. The relevant elements of the Quinquennial report have also been shared with Andrew and he will endeavour to review these during his inspection.

Update on bell frame by Steve Gilson - Steve Gilson will be arranging an inspection of the bell frame.

4. Proposed amendment to the Constitution to allow for co-option of new committee members (CB)
CB proposes the following change to Item 5 (v):-

Any member wishing to stand for election as a Committee Member shall give notice of their intention to seek election at the next Annual General Meeting to the Secretary not later than 14 days before the meeting. Notice of such intention to be in writing, duly proposed and seconded by current member of the Society. Additionally, if the need should arise during any year for an extra person to serve as a Committee member, he/she should be co-opted to serve as an ex officio member until the next AGM when he/she may apply for full membership of the Committee. The appointment of such a person will be made by election of the existing Committee.

This amendment will be put to members at the next AGM for formal adoption by two thirds majority of members present.

SC explained that the Constitution is registered with the Charities Commission.

5. Treasurer's report (KA)

KA had provided the following information for tonight's meeting

The Current account balance is £6362.64

The COIF account balance is £31,474.87

The Gift Aid claim has now come through which will add a further £726.21 to the current account balance.

6. Christmas Card update (SC)

SC has prepared all the cards and envelopes and will liaise with KA to ascertain exactly who has not paid. She also questioned the membership of P.. D... but it was suggested by MJ to still send a card. SC will finalise and pass to KP to distribute to Committee members to deliver and will organise postage for those further afield and submit an expenses claim in due course.

Huge thanks to SC for her hard work on this project.

7. Ideas to share for future fundraising, including summary of problems highlighted in 2018

Quinquennial report where finance is needed in the short/medium term.A

CB advised that the report is very detailed and has reviewed the urgent, short term and long term actions. The report highlights 'bits and pieces' of work that a good local builder can progress but he is unable to identify a specific project that we could use for our next recruitment campaign.

As already mentioned, visitors want to know what is happening to the rear of the church which does look like a bomb site and is a disgrace however, we understand that it is in the hands of the PCC. The members of the PCC are Sue Croft, Sam Chandler, Liz Havard, Gerry Hulland, and Samina Evans.

It is understood that we need to see progress on the Awards for All grant before anything more will happen and that the monies will probably only cover the architect's design fees.

PH feels the site needs to be cleared, at least, which would show some progress to visitors and was possibly the cause of the problem initially.

CB advises that the rotted timbers have been burnt with some of the remaining timber from the previous re-ordering retained.

PH asks if the archaeological dig, suggested by Elaine Cook, could start now.

As regards Fundraising ideas, PH shared details of a previous, successful, Safari Supper which had 4 stages:-

Starters – Rectory

Mains – Town Hall

Puddings – Sue Croft's house

Cheese/Coffee – Glebe Cottage.

The tickets cost £12.50 in advance and there were staggered times to try and avoid too much congestion although, inevitably, this will happen, particularly at the Mains stage.

It was agreed that this could be a nice Summer event and PH is happy to pull a Committee of willing volunteers together and we will discuss this further in our January meeting with an aim to setting date and venues.

AP – CB to write to the PCC with regards the Quinquennial report and the Safari Supper.

8. Correspondence received - none

9. AOB

Upper Churchyard – it is understood that this is now closed and under the responsibility of North Devon Council and the question was raised about public awareness of this.

AP – TR to update the Committee at our next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st January, 7pm at The Old Bakehouse

Meeting closed at 8:15pm.



21.01.20