

**St. Mary's Sprotbrough Parochial Church Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Stable**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting opened with a prayer by Robert Heaton.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Amanda Barraclough (Chair), Derek Barraclough, Betty Brockman, Robert Heaton, Christine Herbert, Lyn Hopson, Angela Hudson, James Inglis, Andrea Offord, Roger Offord, Marilyn Shersby, Janet Scott and Rachel Towers (13)

Apologies: Carol Palmer and Robert Paskell (2)

Welcome: Warm welcome extended to the two new Trustees – Marilyn and Roger.

**1. Appointment of PCC Officers and others**

- Secretary -** Rachel Towers (*proposed Robert H, seconded by Betty – agreed unanimously by all those present*)
- Treasurer -** Robert Paskell (*proposed Derek, seconded by Janet – agreed unanimously by all those present*)
- Vice-chairs -** Robert Heaton & Christine Herbert (*proposed Janet, seconded Betty – agreed unanimously by all those present*)
- Electoral Roll Officer -** Christopher Davies – on confirmation he is happy to continue (*proposed Derek, seconded Andrea – agreed unanimously by all those present*)
- Safeguarding Officer -** Not Filled
- H&S Officer -** Janet Scott & Marilyn Shersby (*proposed Andrea, seconded Robert H – agreed unanimously by all those present*)

Amanda took the opportunity to remind all Trustees that their role comes with various responsibilities and the additional paperwork provided – The Essential Trustee and PCC Finance – a brief outline, should be read.

**2. Committee Membership 2024/2025**

**Standing Committee:**

Amanda Barraclough (Chair)  
Robert Heaton (Vice-chair)  
Rachel Towers (Secretary)  
Janet Scott (Warden)  
Marilyn Shersby (Warden)  
Robert Paskell (Treasurer)

**Vision Committee:**

Amanda Barraclough  
Angela Hudson  
Rachel Towers  
Additional Members incl Non-PCC – Ministry Team

## **Church Buildings & Grounds Committee:**

Amanda Barraclough  
Lyn Hopson (Secretary)  
Roger Offord  
Janet Scott  
Marilyn Shersby  
Non-PCC – Barbara Perry

## **Events Team:**

Derek Barraclough  
Andrea Offord  
James Inglis  
Non-PCC – Sue Ekins, Issy Mears & Sue Silverwood

## **First Aid Training Co-ordinator:**

Rachel Towers

### **3. Minutes of the APCM (1) & APCM (2) held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Tabled and agreed can stand until dissemination in April 2025.

### **4. Minutes of the Minutes of the Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

The minutes were tabled and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024. *Proposed by Christine and seconded by Janet. Agreed unanimously by all those present at that meeting.* Minutes signed by Robert Heaton.

Amanda raised the issue of ‘gaps’ in understanding among the wider Trustees on some matters. This needs to be tightened up as the Trustees will be expected to make and implement decisions in Amanda’s absence when on sabbatical.

### **5. Matters Arising**

- **Hall – Rail Space Conversion** – The proposal to convert the open railed area in the reception area into a closed storage space, was discussed and Derek explained that it would provide a home to some of the more cumbersome items currently stored in the Stable at the moment. More importantly though, we need to be looking ahead, it is hoped this space will be able to provide storage for equipment/toys associated with a weekly toddler group as Trustees engage with the long-term vision to engage with local families and children. However, an issue previously not recognised was a requirement for a ‘fire door’ to be part of the conversion and a new quotation will be requested to incorporate this. The actual principle of moving forward with the conversion of this area was agreed depending on cost. *Proposed by Lyn and seconded by Angela. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*
- **Sale of Pews** – Having exhausted avenues of selling the pews commercially and agreeing that we would be ambitious to hope for a £50 return per pew (4x12ft and 2x8ft), it was agreed that a Facebook campaign locally would be undertaken by the administrator. An additional pressure is the storage problems of said pews at the

Rectory and those still in Church. *Proposed by Derek and seconded by Betty. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*

- **Cadeby Re-Wilding Scheme** – With Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends of Cadeby Church being behind the proposed re-wilding scheme Amanda asked for agreement from Trustees for the scheme to be implemented immediately. *Proposed by Rachel and seconded by Derek. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.* Flyers for the Cadeby residents encouraging them to provide photos and engage were tabled. Also the A4 posters that are to be displayed on the village notice board and within the Church bounds.

Amanda went on to explain that the Diocesan officers supporting the Trustees with this scheme had drawn attention to a tree overhanging the road that they considered to be a potential hazard. Standing Committee took a decision earlier in May to instruct Gloaming Trees, a Diocesan recommended Tree Surveyor Firm, to undertake a survey as soon as possible, the cost of which was agreed at £350 plus VAT.

It was recognised that a similar survey should also be undertaken at St Mary's in the churchyard and Hall/Stable garden. It appears that this exercise should be undertaken on a 5 yearly cycle, though to date does not appear to have been. The firm to be asked to quote for this whilst in the area doing works at Cadeby.

## 6. Correspondence

Two letters of correspondence received were tabled.

1. Mrs K Twiby a resident of Cadeby would like to replace a bench that has been removed due to disrepair. The bench had been situated on the right-hand side of the entrance to churchyard. Amanda has already explained to Mrs Twiby that this will require a Faculty being submitted and to be able to do so we will need to provide information on the size, materials, any dedication plaque and ongoing maintenance provision, in relation to the bench. Additionally, a cement base will have to be laid, also at Mrs Twiby's own cost. As this would be replacing a bench that had already existed it was agreed that a new bench could be installed on principle if the applicant can provide the information and guarantees requested. *Proposed by Betty and seconded by Robert H. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*
2. Mr Ted Rimington provide a letter in response to the DAC request to relocate the old pulpit and tester. He considers the historic importance of these to be of such importance that only the tester (sound board) be moved as he considers that this is the main impediment to the line of sight. Roger was able to explain to the Trustees that actually it is the tester that is the only historical artifact, it being dated circa 1740. The pulpit in situ is a 1915 reproduction of the original pulpit but it does comprise of some of the original medieval panels. He also mentioned that it is documented that in 1915 the 'then architect' wanted to reposition the pulpit and tester because it was problematic for the congregation to see into the Chancel (information corroborated via documents held at the Doncaster Archive) it wasn't. It was agreed that Amanda would explain the DAC and Trustees thinking on the re-positioning to Mr Rimington which is about ensuring its preservation.

At this point it was decided it was the opportune time to consider the Church Fabric and Grounds Committee report regards re-ordering so this was moved up the agenda.

## **7. Church Fabric & Grounds Update**

The minutes of the meeting held in May were tabled and the discussion on the pulpit/tester repositioning was considered. At this point Rachel commented that we should remember that we are considering the alterations of the fabric of the church building because it's a place of worship that needs to adapt the space to continue evolving in worship and congregational needs, it is not a museum. It has already been agreed by Trustees that there is a need to move the pulpit/tester to help open the area as per the architect's proposals. However, the DAC are keen that it is given a sideways move adjacent to the Alpha/Omega door (considered a more authentic position). The stairs will be angled in the opposite direction to which they currently are. The architect and construction company consider this can be done without having to disturb the two monuments, securing their preservation. It was felt that in principle this re-location could be lived with and therefore agreed. *Proposed by Robert H and seconded by Janet. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*

Discussion turned to the water ingress earlier this month, after a particularly heavy rainfall, that soaked the Chancel curtain. The external works needed to this area agreed previously has stalled due to an oversight on part of the architect not having provided drawings for the Faculty request. This is now in progress and should be considered by the DAC at their next meeting.

## **8. Prayers of Love and Faith – Pastoral Principle 4**

The Trustees broke into discussion groups and free flowing conversation was had. However, it was noted that Amanda needed to understand Trustees position on the future possibility of the Church of England proposing that same-sex couples who have entered into a civil partnership will be able to approach their Parish Church for a 'stand-alone service' in front of their own family and friends (not part of a regular Sunday service as currently proposed). A five-option scaled document was circulated that gave Trustees an opportunity to express their views without having to give a definitive Yes/No response. Amanda took note of the non-verbal responses and this gave her an idea of how Trustees felt on this issue.

## **9. Safeguarding**

Briefly it was noted that several DBS certificates require renewing and people will be contacted and invited to do this. This includes new PCC members who may not have the certification.

## **10. Policy Review – Domestic Abuse**

Deferred to June meeting.

## **11. Treasurer's Update**

In the absence of the Treasurer there were no significant points raised regards the monthly report tabled other the budget figures are not that far out of what is actually

happening. The level of giving continues to be a challenge. The digital giving machine is to be reinstated this month and hopefully this option to give will be taken up by some.

It was also noted that the budget for fundraising in 2024 is probably overly optimistic as the Events Team and circle of volunteers is decreasing.

### **Santander Account**

The signatories on this account continue to be problematic as James Inglis was proposed in 2023 alongside Robert Paskell (Treasurer) and Amanda Barraclough (Rector). It was considered that ideally all three would be signatories enabling James to help with paying in monies, to date this role as laid solely with Robert. *Proposed by Derek and seconded by Janet. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*

## **12. Vision Delivery Groups Update**

Deferred until June meeting.

## **13. Ecumenical Update**

Deferred until June meeting.

## **14. AOB**

Rachel raised an issue with the printer used in the administration office. After a service undertaken free of charge by a local IT company, the printer continues to be very problematic and worsening. It is thought that the issues lay with the printer heads. It was agreed that a replacement printer could be sourced, hopefully at a cost circa £100 or less for the printer. The ongoing ink costs will be part of the consideration process. *Proposed by Amanda and seconded by Angela. Agreed unanimously by all those present at the meeting.*

**The Meeting closed with the Grace at 9.15 pm.**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Stable.**