

St. Andrew's and St. Peter's Church, Toller Porcorum

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Wednesday January 20th held by Zoom

Draft Minutes for approval

Present: Rev'd David Baldwin; David Wallbridge, Keith Miller, Paul Leppitt, Jenny Wardle, Judy Miller, Mike Boardman, David Ennals.

Apologies: Thelma Billen.

Opening Prayer said by Rev'd David.

1. Tower – The church has received grant money to the sum of £35,000. KM has liaised with Richard Blackmore (RB; Architect) regarding the approval we have for the repairs to the Tower; we are awaiting RB to contact the builders regarding a price for the second stage of the essential work to be carried out. There is still repointing to do, but the money may not be sufficient for this to be completed. MB wanted to pay RB's October invoice for approximately £4,000, but will hold off from paying the December invoice of approximately £3,000. Proposed by JM, seconded by DW, all in agreement. The PCC agreed that KM should seek List B approval for stage 2 of the re-pointing and masonry repairs to the West face & part North & South faces of the Tower.
2. South side of roof – much discussion ensued! Most members were against another covering of plastic as this meant replacement every 18-24 months. DW commented that the existing plastic was now showing signs of wear, and that he had placed 10 buckets in church to catch the drips (albeit at the time of writing we are accompanied by Storm Christoff!). DE suggested that the timbers would be better protected with felt. DW who has had much experience of felt rooves was very positive about their longevity. The general sentiment was that it would be good to have a roof covering that would give us peace of mind for at least 5 years, and the time to raise funds and to explore our options for a full roof repair. KM pointed out that the interim faculty, which needed to be extended as it was now out of date, was granted on the basis that we would affect a permanent repair in 5 years' time. He also reminded us that that the Erskin Muton Trust had awarded us £10,000 for this temporary repair but the sum would only be paid once the faculty was approved. We assume this felt repair would be costing around £6,000, including scaffolding at the front edge for H&S reasons. KM agreed to seek an extension to the faculty date and liaise with the EMT re payment once the faculty had been approved. We assume the approved fitter to be Brian Rigler (BR), and that once KM has an extension for the

faculty, he would seek to get an updated quote from BR and for the work to go ahead. On this basis a decision to go for felt roof – Proposed by JM, seconded by JW, all agreed.

3. North side of roof – this is even more problematic. Nevertheless, with the decision regarding the South side we should now have 5 years to make a decision on roofing material and to raise funds/seek grants. The options of tern coated steel or Sarnafil would need to be explored with a decision made in due course. DB suggested that the DAC should be contacted with regard to finding out what steps are needed to be taken in order for them to consider an alternative material such as Sarnafil. DE agreed to approach the DAC but requested that DB find a contact on the DAC to whom he could write. DB commented that the Archdeacon Penny Sayers had admitted that it was now not possible for small rural parishes to raise such large amounts of money for the replacement of lead with lead or tern coated steel. MB suggested that as our church is grade 2* listed, approximately 1000 years old, he would be surprised if the DAC would ever approve an alternative material such as Sarnafil. PL stated that most awarding bodies for grants first wanted 50% match funding or would request a faculty approved before any award. MB stated that after the roof lead theft was highlighted in The Dorset Echo we received a number of donations through the Just Giving website. He suggested that if the Just Giving website was given a higher national profile more donations might be received.
4. Matters Arising from meeting held October 22nd 2020 – none.
5. Fund raising - Plant Sale, to be confirmed but most probably Saturday May 15th; Easter Lunch take Away – JM to discuss with Jane E, but most probably Easter Day April 4th but if so, a morning service may not be appropriate, so Evening Prayer more likely; Cream Teas – PL to discuss with Jo Stephenson.
6. The meeting closed with prayer and The Grace at 1715 hours.

Many thanks to Paul for setting up this Zoom meeting!

DE.

Addendum

Keith and I have spoken this evening and now there are additional points of information as follows:

- A. It is not worth DE contacting the DAC (ref item 3) unless we have exhausted the possibility of gaining a grant for the tern coated steel (approx. £90,000?). Therefore, the faculty for using tern coated steel needs completing first, but last night we did not approve paying Richard to complete the drawings for the faculty. We may not have the money to do so anyway, but we need to discuss this and make a decision at our next meeting. In the meantime, Keith will contact RB as to ascertain where he is up to with these drawings.
- B. Keith has contacted the EM Trust today (ref item 2) and has been told to go ahead with the work on felting the South side as long as it is completed within 6 months.
- C. Keith has contacted BR (ref item 2) for his price update of felting the South side roof.
- D. Today, (ref item 1) RB has put out to tender phase 2 of the Tower which is work to be done on the West face and additional work to North and South sides.

DE (January 21st 2021).