

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held at Orchard House

Thursday October 7th at 7pm

The meeting opened in prayer led by the Rector

1. Present: David Wallbridge, Rev'd David Baldwin, Mike Boardman, Judy Miller, Jenny Wardle, David Ennals.
2. Apologies: Thelma Billen, Paul Lepitt, Keith Miller.
3. Minutes of the last meeting (160821) approved.
4. Matters arising: none

5. Reports: Financial – MB had submitted a financial report, which again outlined the precarious situation of the church's funds. However, he had received an anonymous donation of £2,000 and with gift aid this will generate up to £2,500. The donor wished that his/her statement of donation was included in these minutes: [I am donating £2,000 now to help save Toller Porcorum church from closure; which, with the Gift Aid, should, I understand, generate a total of £2,500 to the church's funds for this purpose. I will give serious consideration to making one further, similar donation in twelve months' time. But only if, by that time, I have been given some clear indication in writing that those involved with the future of the church have, by then, made significant progress with developing, and at least beginning to implement, a strategy for its longer-term future.](#)

Other income from standing orders and collections will allow the Share being paid for November and December. Then much discussion ensued; JM read out a church report for the Annual Parish Meeting (tomorrow evening) and suggestions were made to help her highlight the urgent need for the support from residents. If they do not value the church, then residents need to know it is likely to close. DE highlighted the fact that the C of E is financially very well off (*please see addendum below*). It has 42 dioceses and 105 Bishops – what unnecessary duplication and expense. The Rector agreed and gave an example where an office had combined. DE added that it was time that dioceses put pressure on the Church Commissioners to change their mission into supporting parishes with paying for staffing and contributing to maintenance. MB suggested that we invite non-church goers to join the PCC, and that he was willing to make a poster offering thanks to the Community as well as highlighting our further need of support.

Deanery Synod – DW submitted the minutes from the last meeting. This highlighted funding problems and the effects this would have on staffing.

6. Update on Faculty application: PL has been working with the diocese to close the faculty that allowed a temporary roof covering to be installed (the roofing felt cover) and consequently allow the faculty for the new roof cover (terne coated steel) to remain open pending the funds to allow it to proceed to approval.

7. Churchyard: DE stated that church hedges still need cutting and due to being incapacitated, he would approach Jes Carver.
8. Church Cleaning: Martin & June Wilson are stepping down from the church cleaning. The church needs cleaning twice a month (before a service) – volunteers needed. Val Connelly has cleaned all the brass in the church – candlesticks, cross and altar rails.
9. Images from Drone flight survey: DE played the CD.
10. Christmas Lunch: Sunday December 12th at 12noon for 12.30, entertainment by the Selley Family; volunteers needed!
11. Any further business: DE suggested that the PCC minutes go onto the village website, all agreed. In principal, however, the minutes are 'Draft minutes' until approved at the next meeting, so it was agreed that as PCC meetings were months apart the draft minutes can be displayed on the website after PCC members had had 48 hours to agree to their content. DE was to contact Peter Davies with a view to having a Church page on the website. November rota – No evensong (1st Sunday), but we will have an Act of Remembrance with Eucharist taken by Alastair Wheeler.
12. Date and time of next meeting: TBA, probably January!
13. The meeting closed with prayers for certain individuals, closing with The Grace.

Meeting closed at 2032 hours.
DE.

Addendum

The Corporation of Church House £27,000,000, The Archbishop's Council £49,282,000, as well as land and property worth £2bn. Church Commissioners manage £9.2bn investments.