

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

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held by Zoom

Tuesday June 9th 2020

Minutes

1. Present via internet: Rev'd David Baldwin; David Wallbridge; Judy Miller; Keith Miller; Paul Leppitt; Jo Stephenson; David Ennals.
2. Apologies: Thelma Billen; Mike Boardman.
3. Change of material for roof repair leading to changes to faculty application: the Faculty had been submitted on line which had allowed other organisations to look at it – one body, English Heritage, had objected to zinc being used as it can react with lime mortar - the reaction could damage nearby timbers. Unfortunately, the architect had completed drawings for the use of zinc and if the alternative of terne coated stainless steel was to be used instead of zinc the architect would need to alter drawings, consequently adding to his charges. Terne coated stainless steel offered greater longevity than zinc. The PCC made the decision to make the change from zinc to terne coated stainless steel. Proposed: DW, seconded JS. No objections.
4. East side of tower: The Erskin Muton Trust had granted the church £14,000 to repair the East side of the tower. The cost now has risen to £15,800 including the architect's fee. It was agreed that as this money was allocated this repair should go ahead, even though it meant that any further work on the tower would mean that the scaffolding would need to be rebuilt incurring a higher cost than if it was all completed in one visit by scaffolders and builders. Proposed: JS, seconded KM. No objections; DE abstained.
5. Chancel: it is suspected that the crack in the chancel wall is getting wider. Therefore, 'tell-tale' indicators will be attached across the crack to ascertain the extent of any movement. There is the possibility that the wall has resettled and no repair will be required for many decades! The Rector suggested that the Church Commissioners (CC) may have liability for the Chancel, and he helpfully gave the number for the CC and the contact being a Mr Jinks. DE followed this up and Mr Jinks confirmed that the CC were not liable for Toller Porcorum Church.

6. Phase 3: further work by PL and KM would entail submitting a faculty for the chancel and list B approval for the rest of the tower; meanwhile PL agreed to pursue the possibility of the PCC obtaining further grants but he warned that most charities would be looking to the PCC raising 50% of costs before a grant would be considered.

7. Church opening for private prayer: the Government had stated that churches can open from June 15th for private prayer, but certain conditions prevail and a risk assessment must be carried out before opening a church. The Rector stated he would send an appropriate risk assessment to JS. The church must also follow official guidance: view this at https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/COVID%2019%20Advice%20on%20Individual%20Private%20Prayer%20v2_0.pdf

JS proposed that our church opens for one hour each week (seconded by KM; no objections). JS agreed to publish a time most suitable to her and take on the responsibility for following the guidance including the cleaning regime. Thankfully, our 4 cleaners: Mr & Mrs Knowles and Mr & Mrs Wilson were willing to go into church and carry out the initial clean before the opening for private prayer took place. KM agreed to liaise with them.

The opening of the church would be on a trial basis, to be reviewed after 3 weeks.

8. Looking ahead to easing of lockdown: the Rector speculated that churches may open for funerals and weddings from July 4th, but congregations may be limited to 10; probably with no singing and masks being worn. Regarding the possibility of holding the APCM – no date offered, but these are to be completed by October 31st 2020.

Meeting ended at 2010 hours.

DE.