



**MINUTES OF THE PCC**  
**MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> September 7.45 held remotely using Zoom**

**Present:** Richard Coombs (Rector) Clare Salisbury and Bill Harvey (Churchwardens)  
Graham Nicholls, Ian Perry, Adrian Bowcher (Treasurer), Diane Bruckland, David Warren, Rupert Cox, Margaret Failes, Ken Syme, Liz Horder, Peter Ormerod, David Evans, Stephen Ayland, Godfrey Tarling, Michael Bishop,

**Apologies for Absence:** Holly Cupper, Clare Dyson

**Chairmans remarks:** Richard welcomed a team from Cheltenham Borough Council led by Jackie Jobes who would be presenting the 'Minster Innovation Scheme' (MIS).

Richard read from Matthew 5:14-16 and spoke about how we are called to be light in the darkness in our town and that the MIS gives a great opportunity for us. He also spoke about how careful attention to safeguarding is another way that we ensure that we continue to shine in the darkness.

**Minster Innovation Scheme**

Jackie Jobes, the Townscape Manager for Cheltenham Borough Council, led a presentation from the Council for a scheme to be built on car park land off Chester Walk, behind the Wilson Museum which is to provide space for a high tech hub in the centre of the Cheltenham. Funding in excess of £4m is available.

The scheme also proposes to re-imagine the Minster grounds with an investment of £355,000 to improve the paths, lighting and street furniture. The hope is that this will assist further in turning a neglected part of the town into a creative quarter for Cheltenham and will displace anti-social activity with an open space that can be used in a variety of ways.

The scheme includes a new path from the west door of the Minster with sightlines to the glass walled hallway of the new building and the Council are looking at how the Minster might be lit in the evenings.

As owners of the Churchyard we are a key stakeholder. There is an ambitious timescale for this scheme to be built and ready by winter 2021 with work starting on the new building aspect by April 2021.

Richard explained that we would be asked to support a faculty application at our next PCC and in the meantime copies of the scheme would be sent to the PCC and design boards erected by CBC as soon as possible.

We were asked to send any initial comments or questions to Gill Sage. **Action all**

**Safeguarding**

Julia Sawers, Emma Abbey and Paul Collacott (our safeguarding team with Stephen Ayland) joined the meeting to review in detail our safeguarding policies for Children, Young people and Vulnerable Adults.

It became clear that these documents are continually evolving as minor changes are required to incorporate domestic abuse, staff changes and the very fact that we are back in lockdown so Saturday kitchen version 1 would still apply.

With minor changes to be made by the safeguarding team the policies were unanimously adopted by the PCC and it was agreed that they would be posted to our website as soon as possible. **Action Richard.**

Most importantly we discussed how the policies are to be used. Anyone in a ministry position must read the appropriate policy and we should have signing sheets to record that they have done so. **Action Richard.**

In addition Julia Sawers gave a short report on the recently published **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse** as applicable to the Church of England.

In particular this report suggested that all PCC members should complete the on-line training course. **c/f next meeting.**

Bill Harvey expressed thanks on behalf of the PCC to the safeguarding team and acknowledged how fortunate to have so much expertise within the Church.

**Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.** These were accepted as a correct record with no matters arising.

**Ministry and Staff reports.** These had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. Stephen Ayland thanked Richard for such detailed reports which helps to keep us all in the picture in such unusual times.

#### **Standing Items**

- a. Standing and Finance.** Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 taken as read.
- b. Buildings and Fabrics Report.** Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 taken as read. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Camila Findlay of Acanthus Clews as the new Church Architect.
- c. Finance.** Adrian Bowcher talked through the financial report up to 31/10/2020. Income is ahead of budget and expenses are below budget with an operating surplus of about £14k, but we are starting to notice a drop in income from service collections and lettings for the buildings.  
Adrian had started to work and a budget for 2021 but because of lockdown we cannot accurately forecast income at this stage. He proposes to return to this in the new year. There is a Diocesan Fund to aid churches that have lost substantial income. It was agreed that we are one of the better off churches and would not apply for funds at this stage.
- d. Minster, Civic and Deanery matters.** Remembrance Day services had been severely curtailed by lockdown.

**Any other business** We have agreed to contribute financially to the Town wide Open Air Carol Service to be held at Cheltenham Racecourse.

Stephen Ayland will give the Church office a list of updates needed for the website.

Richard hopes to have the next stage of rebranding shortly.

The Church of England had issued a report on how the church deals with disagreements about sexuality called 'Living in Love and Faith'. It was suggested that the timing of the report was unfortunate in midst of lockdown. Richard said that we would address the issue at some point.

**Closing prayer:** David Evans closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.