

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green

PCC Meeting Tuesday 26th September 2023
7.30pm in The Wilson Room

Parochial Church Council Attendees

Michelle Matthews	Clare Harding
Liz Tingley	Jan Moir
Clive Ward	Angie Thomas
Val Henry	

Invited Guest: Rev. Rosemary Mason

Chair: Liz Tingley

- 1. Opening Prayers** were led by Rev. Rosemary Mason
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Mike Brady, Amber Wood, Graham Childs, Chris Owen, Tom Murphy,, Martin Lockwood, Janet Templeman, Shirley Digton.
- 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the PCC meeting of July 25th 2023:**
The minutes were accepted as accurate, proposed by Michelle Matthews, seconded by Clive Ward, accepted by all attendees.
- 4. Matters Arising**
None
- 5. Group Reports**
The safeguarding courses as outlined in the report should be carried out. Graham Childs reported that he and his wife had done three modules and found them useful and thought-provoking. He encouraged other PCC members to do them.
Action: All members as specified in the report.
The Friends of St Peter and St Paul requested approval to continue with their application for a Heritage Lottery Grant and this was given and minuted. The Welcome Pack will be progressed and the Visitors Book has been placed more prominently for people to sign.
- 6. Finance**
The treasurer stated that as agreed, 50% of the office costs have been treated as Ministry and so the money for these have been moved from the Ministry Restricted Find to the Current Account to cover this. Jan Moir queried this move, but it had been agreed at a previous PCC meeting.
This will reduce the deficit for 2023 to £30,000, which will be covered by the legacy, which is available for all budgeted expenses, but will be used up by the end of the year. That leaves £2,000 in the bank account and so use of restricted funds may have to be looked at again. The repair work which has been going on at Ewhurst Church is covered by restricted funds, as is the £900 for the work on the brick graves. Since this fund has been untouched for 100 years, some of it can be used for strimming around the graves.

Clive Ward was concerned that the Gift Aid payments are still outstanding, but our claim is being checked due to two non-tax payers claiming Gift Aid.

The PCC members need to fill out the Charity Commission Trustee Documentation, attached to these minutes.

Action: complete Trustee documentation and return to Treasurer PCC

7. Vacancy Update

No progress to report currently. Due to illness, the planned meeting with the Archdeacon of Dorking and the Rural Dean had to be postponed. Since a face-to-face meeting is required, the next date will be 4th November. The object of the meeting was to agree on the way forward. With the promotion of the Archdeacon of Surrey to Bishop of Dorking, it is more difficult to see the other Archdeacon.

The Parish Profile has been updated by Martin Lockwood, but until the Bishop issues formal letter notifying of the vacancy nothing can happen. This letter then goes to Diocese Registrar who lets EOFG and them start the vacancy advertising process. We have been told that until then we cannot run stewardship campaign.

The Area Dean has written to the wardens stating that the EOFG PCC should decide what ministry model they wish to pursue and that this choice could be actioned immediately. Tom Murphy has been in discussion with the Diocese who have provided information on the amounts by which our parish share would reduce for each model. Discussion ensued about changing our ministry model until we can receive applications, as we do not know what model would best suit potential applicants. In the light of this information and lack of any progress in finding a new rector, Clive Ward made the following proposal:

“That we change our ministry model to be that of a shared clergy model until such time as we can receive applications. The ministry model can be reviewed again at that stage as this will save £31,000 a year in parish share.”

Seconded by Michelle Matthews, carried unanimously, with supporting proxy votes in absentia from Tom Murphy & Martin Lockwood.

Action: Clive Ward to send information to Parish Office for Pews Sheet and website.

Val Henry commented that the quality of visiting clergy had been very good. The meeting agreed.

The meeting expressed its hope that the Archdeacon of Dorking will have time to progress matters, now that the Archdeacon of Surrey has been promoted to Bishop of Dorking.

8. Wardens Report

Progress has been made in addressing the outstanding items from the last Quinquennial Report. Two of the brick tombs have been restored and the large one should be finished in the next week. The builder is heritage approved and his grandfather worked on the tombs originally. Since the old bricks cannot be matched, the existing ones are being used to create the external lining.

9. All inspections and tests required by Insurers and Quinquennial being carried out

There is an outstanding list of items from previous inspections which are being addressed.

Ewhurst History Society are doing research on Mr Broomer, who donated the recreation ground. There are two tombs relating to the Broomer family in the graveyard which the builder will be asked to renovate.

10. First aiders list requires updating, any additions?

Michelle Matthews offered to be trained and her daughter is qualified. Angie Thomas is a first aider.

Action: Amber Wood, Sally Thompson and Jan Jesson will be asked and the old list will be checked. MM

11. Commonwealth Graves consent for Plaques application sent in

Three plaques will be positioned on the railings from the car park, on the lynch gate and on the gate to The Glebe.

12. Rectory update

Savills have been appointed by the Diocese to let the rectory but as yet it has not been advertised. Savills have visited again and confirmed that the property is in good condition. The carpets have to be cleaned and the back window of the garage replaced. The garage roof is not asbestos and has been repaired.

Liz Tingley has written to both Savills and the diocese to chase up on getting some action, since Savills are supposed to be getting costs for what needs to be done.

A tree survey was done in April / May and the diocese has to provide a company to work on those that need attention. It is not a job that John Rapley can do. A company has provided a price but did not come to do the work due to bad weather. Liz Tingley is trying to chase them up.

Action: Continue to chase Savills, the diocese and tree company LT

A request to continue to use the rectory garden from Rainbows End has been passed on. Initial permission was received in the spring but there is now an insurance issue. The children are using the grounds on Thursdays but the playgroup wish to use it more. It was felt by the PCC that Rainbows End insurance should cover this activity.

13. Future Events

October 1st Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch and BBQ. Michelle Matthews will organise children's activities.

November 5th All Souls service at St Peter and St Paul at 4.00pm. This will be followed by tea in the Wilson Room.

Afternote: Christmas Services information is attached to the minutes

14. AOB

Geoff Harry will be re-working the Parish website.

Forest Green church is being locked at night and this is working satisfactorily.

Monday morning prayers have ceased.

The next PCC meeting will be on November 21st