

The Parish Church of St Margaret, Rainham
Parochial Church Council

Full meeting of the PCC held on Wednesday 8th June 2022
in the Millennium Centre (lower hall), 19:30



Present: Heather Baker (HB); Lorna Dyer (LD); Janet Garnons-Williams (JGW); Nick Grief (NG); Felicity Holton (FH); Revd Jonathan Jennings (JPJ), arrived later; David Ormiston (DO); Frank Pantony (FP); Linda Randall (LR); Owen Smith (OS) – Vice chair; Kayleigh Ward (KW); Revd Nathan Ward (NW) - Chair; Charley Whittaker (CW); Terry Whittaker (TW)

In Attendance: Jo Whittaker (JW) – Secretary

PCC MINUTES

Item	Details	Action
1.	Welcome and Opening Prayer:	
	DO opened the meeting in prayer. Item 7i. 'Eco Hub presentation' was then moved towards the start of the meeting.	
2.	Apologies:	
	These were received from Hollie Allen (HA); Nigel Barfoot (NB); Davina O'Brien (DOB); Sam Holden (SH) – Treasurer. Rev Jonathan Jennings (JPJ) arrived later following a Diocesan meeting.	
3.	Eco Hub Presentation:	
	Liz O'Hanlon (LOH) was welcomed to the meeting along with KW, who provided some background to the Eco Hub being set up in 2020 and how the group had come to this point. The Rainham Eco Hub was seen as good practice and was being replicated across Medway, having won both Pride of Medway and Wild Kent Awards. LOH explained they were focusing on five principal areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Rivers and water • Land • Biodiversity • Waste with the aim to find leaders for each area from within the community, schools and businesses. This was in process and links had been made with other Eco organisations, the local Universities and Medway Council. The key priority for the year was air quality – Rainham was one of the three most polluted areas in Medway and levels were more than the government's acceptable level. A good discussion was had and the PCC were extremely grateful for all that the Eco Hub were doing and keen to continue to support them going forward.	
4.	Minutes of the Meeting on 10 May 2022 and Matters Arising (<i>not already recorded on the Agenda</i>):	
	NG proposed and TW seconded that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting and these were agreed by all.	
i.	Friends of Tafara – £3.5k (including Gift Aid) had been pledged - these were to be made good by the end of June. It was agreed that Service leaders remind congregations and a notice to be put in the News Sheet. It was further agreed that the group would advise the PCC of any name change for the group if this was decided. The Bishop and others were due to visit the UK over the summer months for a conference in Canterbury. An invitation was to be extended to meet with them.	Service leaders/ CWh NW/JW

ii.	Risk Assessments – NW proposed that the PCC delegate authority to NW to agree Risk Assessments for any for one-off activities, but all long-term RA’s to continue to be agreed by the PCC. FOR: 12 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0	
iii.	Memorial bench in the churchyard – the Archdeacon’s agreement had been received, the family informed and help requested from them with regards to delivery and installation.	
iv.	Defibrillators – two had been bought and installed, one in church and the other in the Millennium Centre. It was agreed that these would be open to others to use should the need arise and they had been included on the national database. TW to contact someone who had offered to donate towards the cost.	TW
v.	Governance timetable for the year – this was being worked on.	
vi.	Documents on website/social media – Report & Accounts, safeguarding documents and LGBT+ paper had all been added to the website.	
vii.	Eco Church – the General Synod carbon neutral statement had been circulated. NW advised that if churches wanted to replace gas boilers by the end of June, at this stage, no faculty was needed but thereafter a full faculty would be required. There was some discussion about the pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030 and NW proposed and DO seconded the proposal that: ‘the PCC of St Margaret’s, Rainham adopt the General Synod challenge of reaching net zero by 2030 as set out in their paper 1262.’ FOR: 13 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0 Proposal carried.	
5.	Finance Committee Update:	
	TW reported that whilst expenditure in some areas was less than expected, giving was also 10% lower but, we were on our expected targets (except for a £30k gift and grants received). Equally, some areas were over budget and others under budget. Action Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the PCC were encouraged to think about ways to highlight giving to the congregations wedding/funeral fees to be looked at by the Finance Committee The system of paying cash to third parties e.g. bellringers and organists, via brown envelopes, had been stopped and these funds were now paid into a tied-income account (ring-fenced for the third parties involved) and disbursed accordingly. It was reported that there had been some disquiet amongst the choir about this. After some discussion NW proposed and DO seconded the proposal that, ‘moving forwards, disbursements would only be made to companies, sole traders and club accounts. Anything else would be held in the tied-income account.’ FOR: 13 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTION: 0 Proposal carried.	Finance Cttee
i.	Centrica Shares and any changes to banking/bank signatories would be looked into at the next Finance Committee.	Finance Cttee
ii.	Purchase of Childscroft update – still awaiting a response from the diocesan lawyers.	
iii.	Transfer between Repair Funds – this had been done.	
6.	Safeguarding Update:	
	LR advised that, going forward, all staff and PCC would be required to undertake basic and leadership training as well as Domestic Abuse training. This would need to be renewed every three years. This could be done online and certificates to be forwarded to LR once completed. LR would email links to PCC members.	LR/JW
i.	Management Software for concerns and registration – NW had tested various products and proposed using the MyConcern and MySentry software which is also used by the Diocese and Church of England nationally. This would keep all training records and	

	highlight when renewals were due. It was anticipated that all data would be input by September.	
ii.	Policies and Insurance – Health & Safety policies and Risk Assessments were reviewed annually; it was agreed that arrangements be put in place to annually review the implementation of the safeguarding policy. It was noted that all insurance was in place for activities involving under 18's.	
7.	Maintenance & Utilities Committee Update:	
i.	Millennium Centre - acoustic fencing – ongoing	
ii.	Church a) Roof Repairs – still waiting to hear from BW Mays b) Health & Safety – the staff team were meeting with the Health & Safety consultant the following day, 9 th June.	
iii.	Childscroft Road – the Maintenance & Utilities group was addressing the schedule of works.	
8.	Mission:	
i.	University of York update – NW walked the PCC through three documents which were then circulated. 1) University of York report 2) Heart of Rainham Project Development 3) Church Health Questions NW recommended it would be helpful for the PCC to have a good working knowledge of document three before looking to read and assimilate the other documents. Conversations and discussions would continue at the next PCC meeting in July and the University of York report (doc. 1) would be made public to the congregation this week.	
9.	Correspondence:	NW
	A letter had been received from Gillian Fairclough requesting that her and the family be granted permission to place a plaque to mark Tony's resting place in the Garden of Remembrance. To give context, there had been an historic decision made that no further plaques were to be placed in the Garden of Remembrance and instead, the four large Monuments had been introduced to list names of those interred. We continued to receive numerous requests by family members to have individual plaques and these were turned down each time which did cause some distress. Secondly, if permission was granted to everyone who wanted plaques, there would be no space left in the Remembrance Garden. Much discussion followed and a vote was taken to ascertain PCC views: i. To keep the policy as it is 10 ii. To change the policy 0 iii. Abstentions 4 It was further agreed that the rationale behind the previous decision be investigated and that, in the meantime, a holding response be sent whilst this review took place.	
10.	AOB: None reported.	
11.	Dates of Next Meetings:	
	Thursday 14 July 2022, 19:30 in Church Tuesday 13 September 2022, 19:30 in Church	
12.	Closing Prayer:	
	JPJ closed the meeting prayer at 21.36.	