

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Meeting of the full PCC, Church Centre Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 7pm:

Attendance of those to be recorded: Mike Smith, John Mayne, Linda Vogwell, Chris Sandys, Derek Harbottle, Lizbeth Harbottle, Steve Plant, Liz Hopkins, Dave Hopkins

## **Agenda**

### **1. Prayers**

The meeting opened at 19:03 and started with prayers.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Louisa Messenger

### **3. To approval of minutes from APCM, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Dave Hopkins proposed, seconded by John Mayne with the following amendments Derek Harbottle and Liz Hopkins and Lizbeth are not ex officio members but are elected PCC members who have been elected as Treasurer and PSO all AGREED.

### **4. Actions/Matters arising**

In response to better communication invited parishioners who receive the e-service to ask the office if they wanted copies of the minutes sent to them. No one responded to that. It was suggested a notice saying this could also be printed in the church magazine. They are also being displayed on the website. PCC away day was rescheduled as were not quorate. This will be rescheduled  
ACTION – Mike to reschedule

### **5. Comments on St George's Handbook for employees**

Thorough document adopted from Diocese does not apply in full but may in the future.

**Proposal** – (if no amendments to be made):

Mike proposed, seconded by John Mayne that St George's adopt the employee handbook for current and future employees all AGREED.

### **6. Pod Project Update:**

Derek Harbottle, Liz & Dave Hopkins, Linda Vogwell, Chris Sandys, & Mike Smith visited MMC pod construction site, a representative from Nelson was also present.

Presentation from Linda & Chris on the potential impact and benefits of the project. Concluding with their recommendations.

## **Report from Linda & Chris :**

### **Four P's in a Pod!**

#### **1. Product**

#### **2. Positioning**

#### **3. People**

#### **4. Provision**

And the Pros v Cons (or "impacts v benefits" as it has been worded):

### **1. Product:**

Pros = Brilliant eco construction, can't really be faulted

Cons = Not the prettiest structures, need more than one joined together if a parent is to be reunited with a child, they're quite tall, internally basic and designed as a single occupancy living space, offering only the minimum of everyday facilities

### **2. Positioning**

Pros = It would give a purpose to the land, we would have all the work done for us to bring the land into use, no financial cost to the church for the work

Cons = Lose the greenspace forever, it's a threat to the community garden vision, it's very unclear how we would redistribute the land for church use and pod use, it is unlikely the development of the land will be put back to greenspace once services are installed, the site drawings so far are not to scale so may not work in practise, there does not appear to be any thought-out plan for access to the proposed site, either for installation of the Pods, services or even everyday access

### **3. People**

Pros = A handful of individuals in need would be given a home, it's a very caring thing to do

Cons = We can't see the wider Brockworth community reacting well to the idea due to current strong opposition towards any further greenspaces being taken to provide additional housing in the village, we are taking good steps in building community relationships which could be damaged, St George's - under Mike's guidance - has built stronger relationships with the Community during the past two years which we wish to further progress and this proposal could well damage that

### **4. Provision**

Pros = It was indicated, but not verified, that St George's could receive a lump sum of £50k-£60k to modernise the church centre facilities.

Cons = We would require long-term commitment from core church family members to support the project, which unfortunately – at this point in time -we are unable to provide. There is no concise plan on how specialist support services to the female ex-offenders would be provided by the Diocese. The Nelson Trust, which is based in Stroud, appears keen to provide this. However, it appears that the Trust are already under-resourced and indicated they have a caseload numbering around 1,000, shared amongst 27 trained providers. It is difficult to see how they could provide the high quality of support necessary to aid these ladies back into society.

## CONCLUSION

We believe our calling is to explore how to grow the St George's church family for the future of Brockworth. While this Pod proposal is a highly valuable prospect, we see it as a big side-step from our current mission to unite and build our church fellowship. Our recommended response for the Diocese is to say the plan is of great interest but it's not right for us at the moment. Maybe in three years we could reconsider it.

## End of Report

Conclusions were that this was a sidestep away from where we want to be, what our calling is and where the Lord is leading us now. Response would be it is not right for us now. Maybe in future it could be something we would consider. It was thought they were also quite single minded on the Nelson Trust and helping women whereas we would be hoping to support refugees so there is a disconnect there.

A full discussion followed about the need to help people as a Christian versus how many could be helped if a Community Garden was to be developed.

### Proposal:

Chris proposes : Following a change in leadership and a global pandemic, our focus has to remain on building a stronger St George's Church fellowship for the future. This means uniting the church family internally and developing effective relationships with the wider community of Brockworth. We believe, at this moment in time, that using the land for housing is a step too far in a direction we don't feel called to. In 3-5 years we would be willing to reconsider this.

**Liz Hopkins seconded      All approved unanimously**

## 7. Finance report

Fundraising target is very low compared to where we should be now.  
10 weddings booked for this year and not many funerals so had to decrease the income on these slightly.  
Forecast for 34k where budget was 36k (Check sheet)  
Hall lettings are improving – forecast increased to 9400 assuming lets continue as they are.  
Churchyard upkeep has been decreased as a lot of maintenance being done by volunteers.  
Saved money on telephone/internet contract. (12 a month) £80 over year saving  
Photocopier in office – on lease for 5 years, extended for 2 years in October the lease ends. Machine 7 years old – this will be picked up at Church Centre committee.  
Need to push fundraising and Payaz machine needs using more.  
A discussion about fundraising events.  
The Church Charity endowed fund – forecast is more than we would need so should be able to use that surplus for something else.  
The CofE Trusteeship An Introduction for PCC Members had also been circulated to all PCC members.

## 8. Churchwardens' report

Quinquennial report is still pending, but we have been sent a list of recommendations.  
Concerns over the wall with the adjoining property were raised and had been raised with the adjoining landowner. The wall is being monitored by

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Churchwardens and the public footpath issue will be raised with the Parish Council in the first instance.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June Linda and Chris went to the Arch Deacons visitation and are now officially St George's Churchwardens.

## 9. **Safeguarding update**

### **Update:**

Liz Hopkins (Safeguarding Officer) and Mike Smith now have access to Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. This website helps to monitor and track any safeguarding issues.

Church of England now requires all parishes to have a Safeguarding Policy. We can either write our own or adopt the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy from the diocese.

### **Proposal:**

St George's adopt this policy proposed by Mike, seconded by Dave Hopkins, all AGREED.

## 10. **Highlights from Committees**

### **a) Church Centre meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

There is a lot of ongoing items. Safety checks for buildings are ongoing. Looking at having a tick sheet of things we need to check on annual quarterly basis etc.

Barrier needs attention – ongoing

Emergency light for centre is ongoing

Baby changing facility now available in disabled toilet.

Parking signs and the cross. No one who can do that yet, so still on going.

Notice board is still ongoing

Smoke and fire detectors still ongoing. H&S – Karen is still putting together health and safety pack for hirers.

Received National Lottery funding. How can we best use that money – still to be decided.

### **b) Communications meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Updates on donation – Payaz – only used once for small wedding, but there were teething problems. The last wedding it was not used as verger did not know how to use it. Struggling with people who have confidence and skills to set it up.

PA system in Church – desperately need a new one. As the mics are playing up and the hearing loop is not working properly. Have had an offer of donation to a PA system. Need a quote so we know how much we need.

Talked about what the remit is to the communications meeting and what are we trying to communicate.

## 11. **Deanery Synod report**

Deanery synod meeting in Westbury on Severn. Split into discussion groups mostly the talk was about the Pods project. There also was a Deanery treasurer meeting and Derek will circulate the notes from this meeting in due course.

## 12. **Correspondence - None**

## 13. **Any other business - None**

**Date of next meeting: PCC meeting 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 @ 7pm Church Centre  
SC meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 @ 7pm Church Centre**

**The meeting was closed at 20:51**