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**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council**

**Held in the Church Rooms on Wed 11th September 2024 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Roy Woodhams (Chair), Susan Clarke, Alistair Smith, Paul Jenkins, Bryn Jones, Margie Nursey, Maurice Bowles, John Watson, Erik Heemskerk, Bill Rothwell, Sue Tresman, Joan Connolly, Richard Tuck. Steff Shepherd, Nigel Lynn, Sue Knight, Nicola Craven-Smith.

**1** Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies:** Alan Walton, Sandra Keeping, Alison Hendy

**3 Safeguarding:** Nothing to report

**4 The Minutes** of the meeting 10th July 2024 were agreed and signed (proposed by Margie, seconded by Bryn).

Matters Arising: No matters arising.

**5 Treasurer**

Alistair presented the Year to date accounts – 2024 (August) – with the following comments:-

‘Revenue continues to trot along where we expect, with some small improvement in planned giving and a continued shortfall in collections.

The two high points are the fantastic return from the fete at over £9,000 and the continued contribution from the car parking. The run rate on this is averaging almost £750 a month according to these numbers.

Gift aid is a little distorted as the main revenue is more periodic, so we should see recovery in September.

As for Expenditure, there are obviously a couple of lines of overspend against budget, but overall we remain in control and below budget.

The net result of all this is we now have a surplus generated so far of £21,161**.** As long as we don’t fall into negative territory in the last four months we should have a good top-up to the funds for the year.’

In response to these comments it was stated that the actual profit from the Rectory Fete was around £8,000 and that car parking was bringing in a maximum (not an average) of £750 a month.

**6 Young People and Families Leader Appointment:**

There have been no applications, and Roy commented that the situation was the same everywhere. Even the Diocesan apprenticeship scheme has attracted little interest.

Roy described briefly a solution to the problem which he considers to be a workable proposition - for two part-time appointments:-

1) Steff Shepherd one day a week, to cover the planning of work in schools and youth activities except on Sundays.

2) Claire Jones one and a half days a week, to cover the planning of

Sunday morning children’s and young people’s activities.

Roy will give this further thought and prepare a paper with more detail.

**7 Team Reports:**

Susan presented the Minutes of the Social Team dated 31st July, drawing particular attention to the forthcoming Harvest Lunch – Sunday 6th October, 12.00 noon. She and the Team would welcome any ideas for future social events. Roy noted that a ‘Picnic in the Park’ is planned for next year – Saturday 30th August 2025.

Richard reported that the Rectory Fete had gone well, with good support and a friendly atmosphere. The various entertainments were popular: they kept people engaged, and members of the groups had brought their supporters with them.

The equivalent date for next year’s Rectory Fete will be Saturday 12th July 2025. To avoid a clash of dates we should notify this date to the schools and other organisations. Next year’s Food & Farming Festival will be in August.

Roy thanked Richard for his stalwart effort in preparing and running the Fete.

**8 Car Park:**

Waverley have given permission for the trimming of the trees, so this work can go ahead.

Nigel commented that extra lighting would be beneficial, particularly as we come into the winter months. This might need permission from Waverley, although we could simply improve the existing light.

**9 Churchwardens’ Reports:**

**Susan**

**Kitchen renovation**

The full application has now been made to Biffa for a grant towards the cost of the proposed Kitchen Renovation. Biffa’s next board meeting to look at requests is in November, so that is when we would expect to hear any outcome.

**Alan**

In Alan’s absence there was no report.

**10 Eco Church:**

Sue T was pleased to announce that we have now gained the A Rocha Silver Award – an achievement both for the church and the local community. She is preparing a report for the next edition of the Cranleigh Magazine. It was agreed that we should purchase a Silver Award Plaque, to be displayed in church, at a cost of £85 (proposed by Sue T, seconded by Nicola).

Sue said that A Rocha are updating their requirements for a gold award.

This will make it more demanding, and Roy commented that it will probably take a lot longer to achieve than the silver.

Roy suggested that we arrange a speaker from A Rocha to come and speak at an all-age service.

**11 1170:**  Plans are going well for the Heritage Day on Saturday 21st September. Brochures and envelopes are going out to every house in the village; there are still some waiting to be delivered. There will be a collection in Stocklund Square between 10 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

The Guildford Shakespeare Company will be performing Romeo & Juliet in church on Saturday 26th October.

**12 Rector’s Business:**

Claire Oxborough has begun her training for ordination to the priesthood as an SSM (Self Supporting Minister). Her diocesan course is being led by the Revd John Valentine.

Sue Tresman has begun the new diocesan Caleb Course for 60 – 70 year olds, led by Bishop Peter Hancock, and if accepted for ordination will be ordained deacon in September 2025. There are twelve taking this course, of which four come from Cranleigh Deanery. *(For reference to Caleb see Joshua 14: 6-14)*.

Roy drew attention to ‘The Rector Entertains’ – a recital he is giving on the organ and piano on Sunday 13th October at 3.00 p.m.

**13 Any Other Business:** There was none.

**14 Date of Next Meeting:** Postponed to Wednesday 13th November, 7.30 p.m. in church.

The meeting ended with the Grace at 8.20 p.m.