

Minutes of the Walton Churches Partnership Council Meeting

12th July 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Bode Akinbiyi, Ann Beaton, Tyrone Darrell, Joyce Fennell, David Harbey, Catherine Held, Ruth Maxey, Keith Straughan, Matt Trendall (Chair), Sue Wilson

Apologies: Rachael Jenkins, Yvonne Pilarski, Klaus Reidel

In Sister Yvonne's absence, Matt chaired the meeting in his role as Vice Chair.

Opening Prayer – Matt read from Luke 2 vs 25-35, followed by a prayer.

1. **Minutes of last meetings** (January 25th, May 3rd AGM)
The Minutes of the January meeting were agreed
2. **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising
3. **Twinflower project update**
 - Appointment of Tender Review Group and update on appointment of contractor - Matt gave out a sheet titled *Twinflower update (in brief)* and took us through it bit by bit. Peter Laws is acting as Project Chair, Tim Gray has taken the role of fundraiser, and Patsy Young is our book keeper. Now that Planning Permission has been granted, and detailed designs are complete, our appointed architect, Alison Swarbrick, advised that we should appoint a Civil Engineer to oversee building works and control, and recommended a company called JHAI. Peter has been researching building companies, and invited 8 to tender, of which 3 have submitted quotations.

A weakness in the process so far, has been the lack of regular meetings and effective communication. This needs to be addressed.

This evening, we need to agree the membership of a **Tender Review Group** and their Terms of Reference. This group will handle the tender process, and recommend a preferred supplier to the WCP Council. (Please refer to the loose sheet for further details.)

Tim Gray has been working with a qualified surveyor, Jim Hammett, who has experience of church projects, and is happy to offer preferential rates to Churches.

Appropriate persons have been identified to be a part of the **Tender Review Group**: [Clive Piggott](#) (Meetings Chair), [David Harbey](#) (WCP Treasurer), [Peter](#)

[Laws](#) (Project Chair), [Moira North](#), (Legal Advisor). Ideally, [Jim](#) could work with the Tender Review Group as a Professional Adviser. [Steve Potter](#) has volunteered his services as Secretary.

Once the Tender Review Group has completed its work, it is hoped some of its members will join the existing Steering Group. [Brenda Nield](#) has also agreed to act as Church Liaison rep for the group, and would be a valuable addition as she knows the thoughts and feelings of the congregation better than most.

The **Tender Review Group** need to start working together as soon as possible, and ensure that there are regular meetings and effective communication. Ruth raised the need for a quorate to be decided in case of the need for an urgent 15-minute meeting to make a key decision prior to the next WCP Council Meeting.

Terms of Reference for this new group were agreed as follows:

Resolution 1: That we appoint Clive, David, Peter, and Moira as the Tender Review Group

Proposed by Keith, seconded by Sue, agreed unanimously

Resolution 2: That the Tender Review Group have the authority to agree Jim Hammett's fees according to information available

Proposed by David, seconded by Bode, agreed unanimously

Resolution 3: That the quorate for an Extraordinary Meeting should be seven persons (Lay or clergy members)

Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Catherine, agreed unanimously

Resolution 4: That electronic presence (via Skype) is acceptable to make up the quorum if required.

Proposed by Keith, seconded by Joyce, agreed unanimously

Resolution 5: That there be 7 calendar days' notice to call an Extraordinary Meeting

Proposed by David, seconded by Ann, agreed unanimously

Resolution 6: That to be quorate the meeting must have at least one rep from each Church (representatives allowed)

Proposed by Ann, seconded by Tyrone, agreed unanimously

Resolution 7: That the WCP Council to accept JHAI as our company to oversee Building Control

Proposed by Ruth, seconded by Keith, agreed unanimously

Resolution 8: That following the Tender Review Group, we agree to have a Steering Group to deliver the project e.g. set up a process for paying builders.

Proposed by Ann, seconded by Sue, agreed unanimously

- Possible timings from this point – Good progress is being made by the Search Group in finding a new Baptist minister. At this stage, it seems unlikely that anyone new will be in place before December. Therefore, completion of the extension to the Manse, and having a new minister in place, will move into the New Year.
- Finances – David informed the Council that approximately £20k had been raised by the Pledge Day event. As a result of having no minister's salary to pay at present, we are saving around £2k per month. £10k was ringfenced from last year, and so, all together, we will have accumulated around £55k by the end of 2017. Broughton Trust will support us to a generous degree, so we are short of approximately £10k to £20k. Therefore, we have confidence that we will not struggle to meet our bills.
- Short term tenancy for Lola Ayodele - Lola is a well-known member of CtK, and is experiencing financial difficulty. She is facing eviction from her home on 21 July 2017. Are the WCP Council in favour of allowing Lola to live at 38 Twinflower for the next two months? If we offer a low rent, it could help Lola to save some money and recover herself financially.

Whilst we were all in favour, discussions focused on the legal perspective, as there are many implications and potential consequences. The Council felt we had too little financial information available to us, and it would be better if someone had a sensitive, pastoral conversation with Lola. Bode, Keith and David were delegated responsibility to look into this matter further.

Resolution: to agree in principle that, following a pastoral conversation taking place:

- We need to be sure of our legal grounds;

- A satisfactory contract is drawn up for a short-term tenancy agreement;
- Investigate all other options

Proposed by Ann, seconded by Ruth, agreed unanimously

- 4. Finance** – David has spent some time with Julia (new treasurer) to show her how the accounts are set up. Our income currently exceeds our outgoings, which is good news. David is having a meeting on 24th July with all of the Church Treasurers to look at their six-monthly position.

5. Personnel updates

- Search for a Baptist Minister – the Search Group interviewed another candidate on 5th July, and decided to invite them to ‘preach with a peak’. This will be on September 10th.
- Renewal of Ruth’s post – this will be a major issue for discussion at the next WCP Council Meeting in September. Carolyn Sanderson will head up the Reference Group. **Agreed:** to invite Carolyn to next WCP Council Meeting.
- Pioneer Minister Development Post in Wavendon – The Diocese are currently discussing the provision of a house for this post on the new building development of Eagle Farm. The strategic position of the house is vital to the success of this role, and the Diocese are happy to pay up to £600,000.
- Trainee Youth Worker post – not so good news. Another potential candidate has decided not to progress with their application. We will therefore have to wait for another year. The person specification needs to be reviewed, and perhaps a more mature person might be better.
- St Michael’s Pastoral Assistants – Michael Lester is doing some very good work with Ruth at CWW. Bob, who was allocated to assist at St Mary’s and All Saints, has left to pursue a research post overseas. St Michael’s are looking to find a replacement, and may be able to let us have 1.5 assistants before too long.

Matt wanted to minute his thanks to Keith and Ruth for their efforts in nurturing such positive relationships with St Michael’s Priory.

6. Updates from around the churches

St Mary’s –

- 2 x Tidy-up Days on 24th June & 8th July. Good response from volunteers, much progress made with interior cleaning and exterior grass cutting, plus the community spirit was amazing.

- 2nd July Civic Service for Inauguration of Mayor of Milton Keynes took place.
- 2 x members attended the Mission Partnership course “The Bible at the Museum”
- 1 x member attended the Mission Partnership Poetry course
- Congregation is steadily increasing.
- Shortly to purchase a large banner for exterior church wall to advertise Church regular events.

All Saints –

- Go4th initiative is going well. Many people volunteered for the first session which is once a month. Litter picking around the church was a success. Looking forward to the next session.

CtK Catholics) –

- It is good to have Sister Yvonne back after her operation
- There is a new initiative for a Catholic Hub of churches to be formed in Milton Keynes: St Augustine’s in Heelands will be at the centre, and 3 x new priests are to be recruited. New accommodation is to be built at Heelands. The group will include St Bede’s in Newport Pagnell and CtK on Kents Hill. Everyone is excited about this.

Ctk (Protestants) –

- The search for a new Baptist minister continues, so the church is still in interregnum. This has created new opportunities for those with appropriate gifts to step up, and a working group has mapped out plans for services until November.
- There have been a few baptisms recently.
- The All-Age service went well, with children staying in the service rather than going out to the Narthex for their own activities.
- A new Prayer meeting is starting on Thursday 13th July, and will continue on a fortnightly basis. All are welcome to join in.

Church without Walls –

- An open forum recently took place to discuss how things were going. It was felt that the current Quiet Church needs to be reviewed, as few people attend. This event is held at Brooklands Pavilion but, unfortunately, its location is too remote to the rest of Brooklands and Broughton. Therefore, from 3rd September, Quiet Church will relocate to Broughton Pavilion for a 10.00am service for both adults and children.

WCP events

- Feedback from Week of Guided Prayer and dates for next year – again there was good feedback from this event. It will be repeated again in 2018, and is provisionally set for the week of 17th to 23rd June. A Quiet Day is planned for the Autumn.

- Sunday's BBQ 4pm-6.30pm at the Rectory – basic food provided. Please bring a pudding and your own drinks.
 - 'The Call' Prayer initiative starting Sunday, 24th September 2017 at 7pm at Christ the Cornerstone. This is an ecumenical initiative and will run monthly.
 - Safeguarding Training - Saturday, 30th September 10am-3pm – an external trainer has been booked.
 - Other Autumn Events – Pastoral Care training is being offered on 14th October.
 - Planning the liturgical year of events (Nov-Nov) at next WCP Council Meeting – we need to work together to plan events for the year such as Lent, Easter, Harvest, etc. This will be discussed further at the next WCP Council in September.
7. **AoB** – Ruth had one item. Now that Keith is an Associate Priest, and officially part of the clergy team, we need another rep for CWW.
8. **Date/Time of Next Meeting** – Wednesday, 20th September at 7.30pm.