

Walton Churches Partnership Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Walton Churches Partnership Council on 10th August, 2022: 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Wavendon

Present: Jonathan Bailey, Ann Beaton (Chair), Revd. Ruth Maxey, Stephen Potter, Klaus Reidel, Susan Ringsell (Minutes), Carolyn Sanderson, Mandy Sleight, Sue Wilson, Revd. Matt Trendall

Apologies: Revd. Ruth Gookey, Ayokunnu Otunla, Emma Tyler, Stephanie Warren

Opening Prayer by Ann

1. Approval of minutes to last meeting (25th May, 2022) and Matters Arising from these minutes not covered by the Agenda

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.
There were no matters arising.

2. Review of CIO

Matt said that he was pleased to report that the Baptist Union Pension Fund was now in surplus for the first time in two decades and this meant we had no outstanding liability anymore.

Matt would begin the CIO registration process in the Autumn but we needed to work through how the trustee element would work. Matt said that all trustee names would have to be put down in the registration document. We also have five different accounts and the CWW accounts are aligned within the WCP Account. It may be that the way forward is for CWW to have its own separate account.

Matt said that if there was one WCP bank account the role of Treasurer would need to be restructured as it was too big a job for one person. We needed three or four people performing different roles within the 'Treasurer role'.

3. Safeguarding

No concerns had been raised since the last meeting.

Sunday 20th November was Safeguarding Sunday and Matt had registered for this with the Diocese and was awaiting the pack of information.

Rachael is looking at our Safeguarding Dashboard.

4. Finance

Emma had sent the following report:

Good Evening all, sorry I cannot be with you today. However I do hope everyone is well and are enjoying the summer sunshine.

I can confirm as of 8th August the WCP account is at £19,175.30 and our reserves account is £78,807.82. Everything has been paid apart from the URC and the Baptist payments which I will complete at the end of this week. I have no concerns for this quarter.

I am also pleased to say CWW will be able to pay their full share this year after a donation to help support them. I did join a Guidance Group meeting to discuss their share for 2023 to see how much they can honestly afford. I will report back once we have had a better look at their 2023 budget from September.

St Mary's is currently one month behind in their share, after talking to Matt, I'm very happy they will pay it back before the end of 2022.

I am also planning a treasurers meeting for September / October time to discuss any urgent matters and to have a brief look at the 2023 budget and share plans. Please let me know if anyone would like to be included in this meeting so I can add you to my email notes.

Please do email me if anyone has any queries, I am on summer holidays, so please expect a small delay in my answering of these.

Matt told the meeting that our share amount would be less next year but that there were some Partnerships in serious financial difficulties. He asked that we consider an increase in our share payment next year to allow a donation to be given to help these partnerships. We can discuss this in the Autumn.

Ann reported that an annual membership of Microsoft Office 365 had been purchased for Emma as our Treasurer she needed the latest Excel programme and a donation of £102.15 had been given for the retirement gift for Revd. Geoff Colmer of the Central Baptist Association. The Council agreed to both these expenditures.

5. **CWW Reference Group**

Steve reported that the CWW Reference Group had met but as a considerable part of the conversation had been about the Way Forward Group he asked Ruth to report.

Ruth said that a number of meetings had been held and the key words which came from these meetings were Diverse, Inclusive and Open. The last Way Forward meeting had been in May with Carolyn, Matt and Ann also present. There will be a CWW Celebration Service on Sunday 25th September that will be an opportunity to explore with the wider congregation the way forward.

Ruth said there were three key areas:

Congregational responsibility: how to enable the congregation to take on greater responsibility

Paid ministry: What might be available and affordable?

Lay Paid Worker: What funding might be available? What would be appropriate.

Following the 25th September event there will be a round table meeting on the 1st November with all the stakeholders invited. Ruth told the meeting that she is on sabbatical next year, probably August, September and October and this will be a good test for CWW.

6. **Ministry**

- i. 50th Anniversary of the United Reform Church and WCP Working Group: Besi from All Saints, Ruth and Ann are meeting up to see how we can celebrate this Birthday! Either on the first or fifth Sunday in October. Matt said the 30th October is All Saints Day so would be ideal! Ruth's thinking is on a Sunday Lunch based on CWW Dinner Church at Broughton Middle School for all the congregations including the Roman Catholic congregation. This would fit in with the timings of all the services and with the idea of a Great Banquet which is the theme for the Birthday Celebrations. Ruth said that on the 1st October there is a big URC celebration at Westminster Hall.
- ii The URC Synod Celebration will be on 10th September and Ruth and Ann are attending. Ruth said that ecumenism gives a tension at the URC because nobody from MK usually attends their meetings. This makes it difficult when you are looking to fill a vacancy.
- iii WCP Barbeque – Ann suggested that we cancel this event. We are meeting in October as a Partnership and holding another event so soon may impact on numbers attending the URC Celebration event. Also our Ministers have had a very busy time and it is asking too much of them to host this event when there is a lot going on later in the year. Congregations can hold their own event instead. The Council agreed this course of action.

- iv Autumn Confirmation Course: Matt said he was going to hold a course on the basics of faith and asked members to let him know of anyone in their congregations who would be interested. He will send an e-mail around to confirm this. He hadn't set any dates yet.
- v. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Everyone felt that the celebrations had gone well. Matt felt that the church had been at the heart of the celebrations; Ruth said their celebrations had raised funds and Steve reported that their church service went well with some people returning after a long period of absence and are staying with them.
- vi Week of Guided Prayer: Ruth felt it had gone really well; the only problem had been getting the Prayer Guides. She suggested it would be a good thing to do every two years.

7. **Environmental Update: Possible Climate Action Event/Meeting:**

Matt had taken a call from a member of Christian Climate Action who were looking to host a series of events in places where they don't have a presence, for example MK which is near the top of their list. A lively conversation ensued and it was agreed that we would seek testimonials from other places where they had held meetings and research them as an organisation.

8. **Congregational Round Up:**

Staff Update:

Steve reported that Ruth G's health had improved. Her neuro-microbiology consultant is happy the infection has cleared up. There may be some cognitive changes which need to be identified and Ruth may need some help to learn how to work with them. Matt reported what was on offer with the Baptist Union's insurance provider Aviva. Ruth is on full salary for the first six months which ends on the 23rd October.

Community Church – Christ the King

Steve reported that Sunday worship was being covered. Ope, who was now ordained, is taking a service and Chris Batten (Interim Methodist Superintendent). Tim Norwood is also going to take a service. The Renew Café is going well and the sewing group and other activities are all going well.

CWW (Churches Without Walls)

Mandy said that everything was going well. There was good attendance at Forest Church, coffee mornings in the garden, talking points and BBC for extra special families are all going well.

St. Mary's, Wavendon

Jonathan reported that very few people are wearing masks now. Thursday coffee morning is continuing; the Language Café is growing. Matt reported a good season socially, with lots of new people attending and we now have a YouTube channel.

All Saints,

Carolyn reported that monthly coffee mornings, virtual choir and the Dorcas Group are ongoing, but it's Sundays that are really exciting with new people joining week on week.

Roman Catholic Church

Klaus reported on their international mass which was excellent and included readings in different languages and a First Communion. Klaus said that Heelands is now going to have their own church so the cluster will be of five churches with two priests, Father Francis and Father Maria. He also reported that the office is moving to Christ the King.

9. **Ecumenical Oversight Group – LEP Reviews:**
We had 12 – 18 months to complete this Review.
10. **Diocese of Oxford: 10 Year Deanery Plan for MK and Closure of Mission Partnership**
Deanery Plan to be kept on the agenda.
The Mission Partnership is still not formally dissolved.
11. **Any Other Business – Churches Together in MK** is applying to the Charity Commission for charitable status.
There are plans for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** between 18th-25th January.
12. **Date/Time of Next Meeting**

7.30pm **Wednesday 28th September, 2022** in the Boardroom in the Wavendon Community Centre (opposite St. Mary's)

7.30pm **Wednesday 9th November, 2022** in the Boardroom in the Wavendon Community Centre

Walton PCC

Agenda for meeting

Note: members of Walton PCC are:

- *those WCP Council members affiliated to the Church of England and/or who have joined the Electoral Roll – namely Rev. Matt Trendall (chair), Rev. Ann Beaton, Carolyn Sanderson, Ayokunnu Otunla, Steve Potter & Stephanie Warren*
- *....plus Walton's churchwardens – Pat Sawyer, Barney Daley, Roger Hancock and Jonathan Bailey*

1. Update on Wavendon and MK Village Gardens of Rest

Matt reported that approval has now been given for the MK Village Garden of Rest – which is good news as there are two families waiting for interments. The Wavendon Garden of Rest project is now live again, which is similarly good news. Across the Partnership we had 14 interments last year into our two main churchyards, compared with 3 burials.

2. Matters arising - None

3. Date of next meeting – as per item 12 above

Closing Prayer

The meeting ended with a Celtic Blessing.