

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Walton Churches Partnership on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Wavendon**

Present: Jonathan Bailey, Ann Beaton (Chair), Barny Daley, Revd. Ruth Gookey, Revd. Ruth Maxey, Steve Potter, Carolyn Sanderson, Pat Sawyer, Mandy Sleight, Gloria Terrelonge, Revd. Matt Trendall, Stephanie Warren, Sue Wilson, Rachael Jenkins

**1. Opening Devotions**

These were led by Revd. Ruth Gookey

**2. Welcome and note of Apologies for Absence**

Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Philip and Joy Derbyshire, Ayokunnu Otunla, Deacon Klaus Reidel, Emma Tyler and Alise Trendall

**3. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 & Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**a. Walton LEP's registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation:**

This status will give the WCP a firmer legal footing. Watling Valley LEP are the 'guinea pigs' for sending in their paperwork to the Charities Commission which they did about a month ago. We are not quite there yet with our paperwork but Matt said he expected us to register within the next six months.

**b. Closure of the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:**

Matt said that the closure of the Mission Partnership was very sad. They had represented the LEP's in Milton Keynes for 40 years. Things will be different but our status will not be affected. It is hoped to start a Churches Together in MK to which all churches will belong.

Ann said that the Mission Partnership Director, John Robertson, had emailed everyone who had undertaken compass training with the MP to see if there was interest in doing Compass training with John.

**c. Update on Covid pandemic:**

Churches were responding to the latest news on the pandemic. We weren't out of the woods yet.

**4. Confirming Congregational Representations to WCP (2 per congregation) and of other WCP Council Officers for 2022-23:**

Representing CWW:

Mandy Sleight and Sue Wilson

Representing the Community Church:

Stephanie Warren and Steve Potter

Representing All Saints Church:

Carolyn Sanderson and Ayokunnu Otunla

Representing St. Mary's

Ann Beaton and Jonathan Bailey

Ann said that Lynn Atkinson had retired as a representative for the Community Church. She had been a wonderful rep and we thanked her very much for her amazing contribution. We had a small gift that Revd. Ruth Gookey would deliver to her.

Ann thanked all the representatives for their work on the Council and looked forward to working with everyone this year.

WCP Officers: Chairman Ann Beaton  
Proposed by Revd. Ruth Maxey, seconded by Revd. Ruth Gookey and  
unanimously elected

Treasurer: Emma Tyler  
Proposed by Ann Beaton, seconded by Steve Potter and unanimously elected

Safeguarding Officer: Rachael Jenkins  
Proposed by Revd. Matt Trendall, seconded by Revd. Ruth Gookey and  
unanimously elected

Ann said we were very thankful to Susan Ringsell for offering to take the minutes of our meetings.

## 5. Finance Update and Receipt of 2021 Accounts:

### 2021 Accounts:

Emma had produced a report to accompany the 2021 Accounts (attached). The accounts presented to the meeting were as at 6.30pm this evening and had been briefly examined by Ian Corlett. A full examination will follow this AGM – the WCP Council will receive the final examined accounts at their next council meeting.

#### a. Walton LEP Housing Limited – approval of 2021 accounts:

Steve Potter said that a LEP cannot own property but can own a company that owns property and so that is how we own the Twinflower property which is Revd. Ruth Gookey's home.

Steve puts in nominal accounts every year to the Companies House and we approve the accounts in our minutes. Barny said that we are the ultimately owning entity but there is a question of whether we are an entity at the moment. Becoming a CIO will mean that we can own property and it will be a simplified procedure.

The cost of nil for the property was queried but Steve said that he had inherited this and it was acceptable to Companies House so he had not changed things.

It was proposed by Revd. Matt Trendall, seconded by Mandy Sleight and unanimously agreed to adopt the WCP Accounts and the Walton LEP Housing Limited accounts.

### Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner:

Ian Corlett had kindly agreed to examine the WCP accounts.

## 6. Safeguarding Updates: appointment of Office and Responsible Adult and approval of current policy – <http://www.wcpmk.co.uk/children-and-young-people/safeguarding>

Rachael said that we were doing well and she had finally managed to join The Dashboard at the Diocese. There were some glitches, such as St. Mary's – there are quite a lot of them!! Matt said our full name was Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Would this help Rachael identify St. Mary's?

DBS's are now valid for five years but for Anglicans every three years (we are using the Baptist system, so five years for us). She has received the Dashboard from the Diocese and we are at Level 2 status. Rachael said she is not sure what the criteria is for Level 3. She will check what the criteria is so we can check our status. She would like to link up all training.

A policy update is due next year. Rachael thanked Jo Yates at St. Mary's and Ayokunnu Otunla at All Saints for looking after the DBS checks for their churches.

Matt said a big thank you to Rachael for everything she does on our behalf.

We need to appoint a Responsible Adult for the Partnership. Susan Dynes is the RA at St. Mary's and Sandra Mills at All Saints but we need someone at Partnership level.

It was proposed by Revd. Ruth Maxey, seconded by Ann Beaton and agreed unanimously that Sue Wilson be the Responsible Adult for the WCP.

It was proposed by Ann Beaton, seconded by Steve Potter and agreed unanimously to the adoption of our Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding Training: we are all still ok at the moment. The Diocese has a new Safeguarding Lead and it is hoped that the training will go back to face to face in the near future. Matt said that basic and foundation training had to be done by all church council members although some of the roles had been withdrawn from mandatory training where there was no direct contact with young people and vulnerable adults.

## **7. Mission and Ministry Updates:**

### **a. LEP Vision and Mission Action Planning for 2022-2025:**

We have begun looking at our next Action Plan. Ruth M. said that her contract with CWW ends in 2025 and it is right to start now.

St. Mary's need to combine their congregations with the wider community on the new estates in Wavendon. They have Oscar and Cristina who have joined the St. Mary's congregation and are now holding monthly community gatherings. English Language practice classes for one lady are happening at the coffee morning and it is hoped to take on one or two other people to give these classes on a Saturday morning in church.

Matt said the weekly coffee mornings in school are not going so well but we will see after Easter if it is still viable. The school is growing rapidly .

For the Queen's Jubilee there is a whole range of events reaching across the old and new. Matt is holding a lot more baptisms and weddings with new residents and what is possible with volunteers instead of a Pioneer Minister is exciting.

Matt said that the church building is taking on a bigger role than expected as different cultures value it.

Ruth G. said their Renew/Wellbeing Café which started in 2021 based on the book by Revd. Ruth Rice where it is ok not to be ok has taken off this year. She is grateful to God for starting something new. It is held every Tuesday morning at the Community Centre. There is a prayer space, activities, tea, coffee, cake and chat. There is a small team including Keith from CWW. Social prescribers know about them. It is designed for a small number of people – say 10-15 people – coming regularly. The next Café is on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Ruth M said there was a lot going on across the Partnership. Zoom Kids (primary age) emerged from zooming – Lianne helps fortnightly at Christ the King: parents without transport in Broughton couldn't get to Kents Hill so opened up in the Children's Centre in Broughton. This has increased numbers. Relax Teens which is mainly young people from CWW in a good week 8 young people and in a poor week 6. Ruth M is delighted that Rachael and Dan are involved in the leadership. If anyone would like to become part of the leadership team please see Ruth M. It is lovely to draw in young people from across the Partnership.

Loosely connected to CWW, Dan is going to Crossfire in May. A Christian meeting of the churches – secondary age upwards. They provide the leadership.

## **8. Any Other Business: None**

## **9. Date of Next Meeting (Ecumenical Council and PCC) – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at St. Mary's. Carolyn gave her apologies for this meeting.**