



Minutes of Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday 1st July 2024, 7.15 pm at Rothley Primary School

Present:

PCC members: Liz Barker, Susie Clark, Wendy Ferguson, Chris Garnett, Rob Gladstone (chair), Margaret Leverment, Alison Parkinson, Linda Poole, Ray Prince, Margaret Rouse, Fred Sleath, Nigel Willey, David Wilson, Sue Wilson (also taking minutes)

Guests: Mark Pratchett, Community Stewardship Solutions, London; Ben Gardner, St Barnabas, Grange Park, Loughborough; Sneha Ninan

1. Opening Prayers/Reading

Rob opened with a reading from Romans 1 and prayer.

2. Vision for Broadnook

Mark Pratchett gave a presentation explaining his consultancy role at the new development. He is employed to set up a permanent Broadnook Community Trust, which will manage the infrastructure and facilities on the development and aim to build a successful new community. This is a priority at Broadnook, which is being built on ambitious Garden City principles. Mark and his team are already planning welcome packs, events, a website and social media presence. The Broadnook Community Trust will consist of representatives from the local authority, residents and local voluntary groups; a facilities manager and a part-time community development worker will be employed.

In response to questions, Mark shared the following information:

- Some examples of activities undertaken by churches on other developments elsewhere in the country were welcome boxes and liaison with the marketing suite. However, he advised us to make our own decisions on what we would like to offer.
- Initially there will be no community space for events, but it may be possible to use space in the marketing suite, have a marquee provided or use residents' homes if any of our own congregation should decide to move there. It will be particularly important to welcome the first occupiers, for whom there will initially be few facilities.
- There will not be a dedicated faith space. In Mark's experience, it works better for faith groups to use the same community space as other groups.
- Mark's team will produce a welcome leaflet about the Broadnook Community Trust and local facilities. He advised us, therefore, to concentrate on what we ourselves wanted to offer residents.

After Mark left, we had a discussion with Ben Gardner, in the light of his experience of setting up a church on a new estate. He encouraged us to get involved at Broadnook. Being involved from the beginning would be an advantage – it took him and his team three years to build trust at Grange Park because they were not there from the start. They held a number of initial events, for example a parenting course on digital technology; a carol service in a marquee followed by wine and mince pies; Hallowe'en alternative displays of love, hope, faith and Good News with give aways like hot chocolate and marshmallows. St Barnabas Church now meets in the community centre on the estate on Sundays, but used homes and the school before it was built. Ben's advice was to find a champion who would lead the outreach and to concentrate on doing a few things well. He encouraged us to become involved in Broadnook, but also to be prepared for loss, both to the congregation remaining in Rothley and to those who would go to work at Broadnook.

Ben and Sneha then left the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest, Apologies, Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising

Declarations of interest: none

Apologies: Wendy Lewis, Susan Pinkus

Minutes of the meeting on 13th May: agreed

Matters Arising:

Safeguarding: Wendy Ferguson reported that new, more detailed national Safeguarding standards have been introduced. An audit tool is available, which Wendy thinks will be useful. Role descriptions are still needed for many activities.

Health and Safety: Fred Sleath reported that he had obtained a second quote for a fire risk assessment, which was more expensive than the first. The PCC agreed to accept the first quote and proceed with the assessment in the autumn. The PCC requested an updated Health and Safety policy document for the next meeting. This is required for insurance purposes.

4. Finance

In response to a question, Sue Wilson reported that a request for the PCC to consider its Parish Contribution offer had very recently been received, but not in time for the Finance Committee to produce the budget for 2025 and advise the PCC of the expected financial position. This would be produced for the next PCC meeting.

It was noted that the Finance Report reminded the PCC of its designated funds for evangelism and training, which should be born in mind, particularly as we plan work at Broadnook.

5. Operations

Ray Prince had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. He reported that flowers were now growing in the wild areas in the churchyard. Various comments had been received, both positive and negative about these areas.

Linda Poole reported that exterior painting of the Old School Rooms (OSR) will be done when the weather is right. She has arranged a food safety training in October for those who prepare and serve food in the church or OSR. The wooden doors in the OSR now need replacing. It was agreed that Linda should obtain a quote for the work.

6. Brief verbal updates

Minster Community: There had been no volunteers from any church to be part of the Co-ordinating Group to take forward the plans for our area, hence the six stipendiary clergy, along with a layperson recruited from each parish, have now formed the Group. Rob had asked Liz Sleath to be Rothley's representative, since she has a wide knowledge of all the activities of the church. The Group has met once and plans to arrange two Saturday meetings to involve a wider number of people closely involved in various aspects of church life.

Church Building Improvements: The working group had met earlier that day and Fred reported that approximately £60,000 was now needed to reach our fundraising target. Clive Jackson is currently applying for grants towards the work. Two grants of £5,000 each had so far been promised, and taken account of in the figure above. The Faculty public notice is currently being displayed for the statutory period. However, the architect has found an error and a further Faculty will need to be obtained for part of the works which was omitted from the original paperwork. The PCC agreed that Ken Arkley, Angela Neill, Ray Prince and Fred Sleath be delegated responsibility to respond to questions from companies during the tender process.

7. Any Other Business

Margaret Rouse thanked Susie Clark for her work arranging the successful Picnic and Games event on Warren Way playpark the previous day.

The meeting closed with open prayer.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Business Committee: Wednesday 4th September, 7pm, 56 Grangefields Drive

PCC: Monday 16th September, 7.15pm, Rothley Primary School

Papers and requests for agenda items/time for PCC meeting 16th September to Susan Pinkus by Sunday 1st September please