

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green

Minutes of PCC Meeting Wednesday 27th November 2024
7.00 for 7.30pm in The Wilson Room, Ewhurst Churchyard

Parochial Church Council Attendees

Martin Lockwood

Chris Owen

Liz Tingley

Jan Moir

Graham Childs

Jan Jesson

Clive Ward

Val Henry

Michelle Matthews

Janet Templeman

Tony Gauvain

Shirley Dighton

Tom Murphy

Clare Harding

Angie Thomas

Jackie Avery (Hon PCC Secretary)

Invited Guests: Rev. Rosemary Mason, Elizabeth Coleman

Chair: Clive Ward

1. Opening Prayers were led by Rev. Rosemary Mason
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Mike Brady who gave his positive vote on Item 9.
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the PCC meeting of 25th September 2024**
The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Val Henry with three corrections, seconded by Graham Childs, agreed and adopted.
4. **Action points and Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 (4.1) Parish Share – no progress to report
 - 4.2 (4.3) Tree work at Okewood – no progress to report
 - 4.3 (5.1) Deanery Synod minutes to be circulated . **Action Liz Tingley**
 - 4.4 (12.1) Safeguarding – Some safeguarding courses are outstanding. When a member joins the PCC they should do the appropriate courses.
 - 4.5 (12.3) First Aid Course – The course being arranged by Rainbows End has no spaces. A course will be set up for the village in the new year. **Action Liz Tingley**
5. **Group Reports**
 - 5.1 The Friends(FSPSP) proposal was put forward by Clive Ward : That an interest-free loan of £50,000 from the Ewhurst Capital Fund be granted to FSPSP as a stand-by bridging loan towards the costs of the proposed restoration work on St Peter & St Paul. This was seconded by Martin Lockwood and carried unanimously.
 - 5.2 Proposed Resolutions for SPSP Preservation (See Appendix A) these were put forward by Martin Lockwood. Some were already agreed at previous PCC's but it is better to put all the proposals to the Diocese together. Item 2.4 requests a loan from the Ewhurst Capital Fund if required. The resolutions were agreed unanimously.
 - 5.3 Charities Group proposed that the PCC accept the detailed re-assessment of their contribution to the church (as per their report) and ask that it be officially recognised by the PCC that their remit is to provide catering for events. They request agreement to a small budget that can be drawn on to provide catering when there is not the possibility of covering costs.

The proposal was put forward by Liz Tingley, seconded by Janet Templeman and agreed unanimously. It was suggested that the group be known as the Hospitality Group.

6. Finance

- 6.1 The parish should break even this year, following the reduction of the Parish Share for a House for Duty parish.
- 6.2 The forecast for 2025 shows a deficit of £3,700 for Ewhurst and £3,500 for Okewood and Forest Green. Negotiations with the diocese need to reduce the figures by £5,000 for each new parish, if possible.

7. Future Events

- 7.1 Christmas services have been agreed and published, The list will go out with the pews sheet on Friday 29th November.
- 7.2 Five sessions of Carol singing have been organised. This includes public ones at the School Fair on Saturday 30th November, and at The Bulls Head on Monday 23rd December. People are welcome to come and sing carols at 7.00pm on Fridays in church.
- 7.3 Graham Childs will provide mulled wine after the Nine Lessons and Carols service on December 22nd.
- 7.4 Chris Own invites the congregation to coffee and mince pies after the service on December 15th, at The Old Post Office.

8. Safeguarding / Defibrillator / Fist Aid

- 8.1 Safeguarding - see 4.4 for update. Shirley Dighton is looking after Okewood. Tony Gauvain has nearly completed the part 3 leadership course on Zoom.
It was suggested that when the new parishes are set up, courses could be run for all PCC members.
Val Henry reported that she couldn't get a place on the Musical Director's Safeguarding course until spring 2025.
It was noted that the whilst parish has no Safeguarding Officer the website should say that any issues should be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Jackie Proudfoot.
- 8.2 Defibrillator – An application was made for a defibrillator for the church but the cost would be £750 so this will not be progressed.
The Henry Smith charity contributed to the cost of the defibrillator outside the Glebe Centre so it is unlikely that they would contribute to another one in the church.
It was suggested that a map was made for the Wilson Room showing where the three defibrillators are in Ewhurst village. Sides people could be made aware of these locations.
- 8.3 First Aid – see 4.5 for update

9. Dissolution of the Parish

- 9.1 Following the recommendation of the Bishop of Dorking and consultation with parishioners, it is proposed that the Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green shall be dissolved into its constituent parts of Ewhurst and Ellen's Green, and Okewood and Forest Green.
The PCC voted unanimously in favour of this resolution.
- 9.2 a) It is proposed that upon the dissolution of the Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green, Ewhurst and Ellens Green shall become an independent parish in the Deanery of Cranleigh, subject to the agreement of a fair and affordable parish share.

The PCC members representing Ewhurst and Ellens Green voted unanimously in favour of this resolution

9.2 b) It is proposed that upon the dissolution of the Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green, Okewood and Forest Green shall become an independent parish in the Deanery of Dorking, subject to the agreement of a fair and affordable parish share.

The PCC members representing Okewood and Forest Green, voted unanimously in favour of this resolution.

Tom Murphy has been in communication with Archdeacon Catherine about the proposed parish shares for the two new parishes. The current figure will leave both parishes with an annual deficit of over £3,000. It is likely that the new parish of Okewood with Forest Green will need funds for the legalities of setting up a new charity.

Currently the accounts are kept separately for the three churches.

Consequently the following resolution was put forward by Tom Murphy:

9.3 It is proposed that the church wardens of the Parish of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green, should meet with the representatives of the diocese, with all deliberate speed, to resolve the parish share for the new parishes of Ewhurst and Ellens Green, and Okewood and Forest Green.

The PCC voted unanimously in favour of this resolution.

The PCC are interested to know the timescale for the legal separation for the parish into two, with a final date for the legally recognised new parishes.

It was agreed that the PCC secretary would send these minutes with a covering email to Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Catherine, the Area Dean and the DAC (Wendy Harris).

10. AOB

10.1 VE Day 2025 – It is likely that the Ewhurst Parish Council will be organising a village event. It was proposed by Clive Ward that the parish church be involved in the celebrations. Seconded by Martin Lockwood, agreed unanimously. Val Henry offered to liaise with the parish council. **Action Val Henry**

10.2 It is hoped that both parishes would continue to support each other. Val Henry thanked parishioners for getting in touch with her with their views. Information to be put in the pews sheet and on the website. **Action Elizabeth Coleman.**

10.3 News and Views – December will be the last edition of the magazine and a flyer will go in it from the church wardens, to explain what is happening and ask for volunteers to take on the editorship.

10.4 It is likely that the split of the parish will take about three months. It was suggested that it could be concluded at an early APCM. The Area Dean will be asked about a date.

Action Liz Tingley

The accounts will be closed off as normal at the end of December and Michelle Matthews will continue in the role of treasurer until the two new parishes are created. The bank will need all the documentation with the legal information about the new charities.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, in the Wilson Room.

Rev Rosemary Mason closed the meeting with prayer.

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Clive Ward
Chair

APPENDIX A

Proposed Resolutions for SPSP Preservation:

1 That we agree to apply for Faculty consent under reference 2024-101188 section B6 application, for restoration/repair of stonework to external walls of Ewhurst church, as listed in Quinquennial report of March 2024. (Already passed but repeated here for administrative simplicity.)

2 That we agree to apply for a faculty permission under section list B for installation in SPSP's churchyard of a seating bench that is being donated in memory of Mrs Anne Barrett-Leonard to be located in a situation near memorial wall and memorial area, details of bench to be included in faculty application. (Already passed but repeated here for administrative simplicity.)

3 That the dead Hawthorn tree located between chancel and memorial area be removed, as approved by Waverley Borough Council conservation tree officer.

4 That a stand-by bridging loan be granted from the Ewhurst Capital Fund of up to £30,000 towards costs incurred during the restoration works to the external walls of Ewhurst church and be repayable from donated funds to the Preservation fund.

5 That overhanging tree branches above Wilson Room roof can be cut back up to 2m as agreed with Waverley Borough Council conservation tree officer, to prevent further damage to the roof.

6 That a 3 ft. timber panel fenced enclosure be erected around the waste bin in corner of memorial area, with access gate. Permission to be sought for an archdeacon faculty, detail of such to be included in faculty application.

7 That the churchwardens can appoint a conservation architect from the DAC approved list,

for the proposed stonework restoration work following competitive tender and following Faculty consent.

8 That we agree to replace the existing external flood light on south transept wall with two new solar flood lights, as it is a Health & Safety issue. Faculty not required as this is under List A only requiring PCC agreement.

9 That an application for planning permission be applied for from Waverley Borough Council for the part removal above roof level down to underside roof eaves level of redundant chimney above Ewhurst church boiler room, as required by the Diocese DAC prior to removal. Cost of Waverley pre-planning advice £118.10, cost of application to be advised following planning officer advice.

10 That a faculty be applied for urgent replacement required of the decayed/ damaged timber edge fascia that supports the ends of the North Transept roof. Following architect inspection