

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green

PCC Meeting Wednesday 20th May 2024
7.00 for 7.30pm in The Ark, Okewood Church

Parochial Church Council Attendees

Tom Murphy	Tony Gauvain
Martin Lockwood	Shirley Dighton
Liz Tingley	Jan Moir
Graham Childs	Jan Jesson
Clive Ward	
Jackie Avery (Hon PCC Secretary)	

Invited Guests: Rev. Rosemary Mason, Liz Coleman, Sarah Murphy (part)

Chair: Tom Murphy

1. Opening Prayers were led by Rev. Rosemary Mason
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Mike Brady, Michelle Matthews, Val Henry, Janet Templeman, Clare Harding, Angie Thomas
Tony Gauvain was welcomed to the PCC as new Church Warden.
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the PCC meeting of 20th March 2024**
The minutes were agreed and adopted.
4. **Sarah Murphy SSM Training**
Sarah explained that she has completed two years of LLM training and now wishes to become fully ordained. After consultation with the Area Dean, it was agreed that she could take the 'Caleb Stream' for 1 year which would provide the SSM (self-supported minister) training. Applications have to be in by early June. She may do this concurrently with the third year of LLM training, with ordination in September 2025. The cost of the Tailored Stream is £1,250 with a further personal payment of £750. Sarah was thanked for coming to explain her plans.
Clive Ward proposed PCC support for Sarah's training, seconded by Jan Moir, all in favour. The Standing Committee recommends that the money for the SSM training comes from the Parish Ministry Fund. This was proposed by Clive Ward, seconded by Shirley Dighton, all in favour.
5. **Action Points and Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 (5.4) Work in woods behind The Ark – Tom Murphy has discussed this with the diocese and funding is available as it is a Health and Safety issue. These funds have not been requested as money is currently needed for Ewhurst Church. Some tidying up can be done. **Action Tom Murphy**
 - 5.2 (7.2) Youth Team proposal – This is awaiting the convening of the new Worship Committee.
 - 5.3 Dignity at Work – This document from the diocese has been circulated to the PCC. The meeting adopted it.
 - 5.4 Trustee Documentation – attendees completed this and were issued with Trustee documentation from the Charity Commission. Liz Coleman will pass to those not present. **Action Liz Coleman**

6. Group Reports

6.1 Friends of Ewhurst Church – Clive Ward proposed that Tony Gauvain, as church warden, is selected by the EOFG PCC to be the ex-officio trustee of FSPSP. Seconded by Martin Lockwood, all in favour.

7. Financial Report

The January to May 2024 report was issued to members by the Treasurer.

The payment to the diocese for the Parish Share should be £42,800 but we are currently paying too much per month. With the corrected amount the accounts will not be in deficit. EOFG are also due a 20% reduction due to the vacancy being over 1 year. Michelle Matthews is in discussion with the diocese and if no progress is made, Tom Murphy will follow up. **Action: Michelle Matthews and Tom Murphy**

The examiner for the EOFG accounts is unwell and the 2022 and 2023 accounts have not been examined. Clive Ward proposed that the PCC appoint Mr Neil Doody, retired accountant living in Finchampstead, Berkshire, to conduct an independent examination of the 2022 and 20234 accounts. This is about 1 week's work. Seconded by Graham Childs, all in favour. **Action Michelle Matthews**

8. Vacancy

A meeting was held last week with the Archdeacon, the Bishop of Dorking and the Areas Dean. No applications have been received from the current advertisement in the Church Times. The Archdeacon proposed that more photographs be put into the parish profile, Clive Ward, Geoff Harry and others have some photos but checks have to be made on whether children's faces can be shown

A further advert will go into the Church Times on July 12th, with a closing date of 9th September. The Parish Profile will be put onto the EOFG website.

Action Liz Tingley and Tom Murphy

9. Fabric Report and Recommendations

9.1 The Standing Committee has agreed that the architect can specify the urgent work schedule outlined in the Quinquennial Inspection. This will allow the quantity surveyor to cost the work. The proposal was put forward to accept the architect's cost of £1,100. Agreement was given for the quantity surveyor's fees of 300 + VAT, for the FSPSP application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

All the work required, including the south transept, will need an Archdeacon's Certificate, which is quicker to get than a faculty. Martin Lockwood will apply for this when the costings have been received. The proposals were seconded by Tony Gauvain and all in favour. **Action: Martin Lockwood**

Remedial work will start with removing the masonry bees from the wall of the south transept. The leak by the chancel next to the tower, cannot be actioned until August as there is a jackdaw's nest in the opening. The Buddleia bushes in the roof will be removed in the new few weeks.

9.2 Need for Restoration Fund – There are several restricted funds relating to the Ewhurst church building; Wilson Room, Beam in Ewhurst, Ewhurst Roof, Ewhurst Restoration PCC. If one Restoration fund is set up there will be £38,000 available and any grants can be paid into that Fund.

9.3 FSPSP HLF Funding Grant – If the Grant is received, it will go into the Restoration Fund as it is the responsibility of the EOFG PCC to get the work done and paid for. The grant

application has been submitted and acknowledged; there will be an 8 week wait for an answer.

9.4 Other Quinquennials – The Okewood quinquennial has highlighted a problem with the porch and this has been dealt with by the Friends.

The Forest Green quinquennial reported a large amount of work being required, but the estimate is too small for an application for grant from HLF.

10. First Aid / First Aiders

No one has come forward to attend a First Aid course which needs to include a demo of use of a defibrillator. It was suggested that a course be advertised to get village people to come, Liz Coleman volunteered to attend. The cost is £50/£60 per person.

The need for a defibrillator in the church was discussed; there is one at Hazelbank Stores, one at the Bull's Head and one at the Glebe Centre, but that is locked in a cupboard. Liz Tingley will see if it can be placed outside and that would be the nearest one to the church. Clive Ward suggested a contribution to the Parish Council to aid this. **Action: Liz Tingley**

Information about CPR is available online and training could be offered to other groups in the village

11. Safeguarding

Basic awareness training is still outstanding for some members of the PCC. It is a legal requirement for members to have the foundation level of training. This lasts for three years. The appropriate link to the Diocesan website will be sent to members. **Action: Jackie Avery.**

Sarah Smith has offered her resignation as Safeguarding Officer. It is a requirement that the new Officer is a member of the PCC. Shirley Dighton offered to ask at Okewood for a volunteer. **Action: Shirley Dighton**

12. Rectory Update

The family in the Rectory have done some repairs and are likely to stay until July. Signs have been put up to show the allocated parking area for church visitors.

The signs have gone up in the entrance to the churchyard regarding keeping dogs on leads and picking up. The provision of poo bags was discussed but they are available together with a bin, in the car park.

13. Deanery Synod – Okewood Vacancy

Mike Brady has resigned as Deanery Synod representative of Okewood and Forest Green. Tom Murphy will ask the congregations at those churches to offer for the role. The Area Dean has emphasised how important the role is; there are two meetings a year and the information should be brought back as an agenda item at PCC. **Action: Tom Murphy**

14. PCC Vacancies

An email of resignation from the PCC has been received from Amber Wood. There are now two vacancies on the PCC.

15. Future Events

Songs of Praise at the Old Rectory will be at 6.00pm on Sunday June 30th.

16. Dates of Next Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th July, in The Wilson Room, and will be chaired by Tom Murphy.

Rev Rosemary Mason closed the meeting with prayer.

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Tom Murphy
Chair