

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood and Forest Green

PCC Meeting Wednesday 25th September 2024
7.30 for 8.00pm in The Wilson Room, Ewhurst Churchyard

Parochial Church Council Attendees

Tom Murphy	Tony Gauvain
Chris Owen	Shirley Dighton
Liz Tingley	Clare Harding
Graham Childs	Jan Jesson
Angie Thomas	Val Henry
Michelle Matthews	Clive Ward
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, Janet Templeman, Martin Lockwood, Jan Moir
3. **Adoption of the Minutes of the PCC meeting of 24th July 2024**
The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Val Henry, seconded by Jan Jesson, agreed and adopted.
4. **Action Points and Matters Arising**
From action points of July meeting:
 - 4.1 Parish share: No response has been received following the enquiry to the Diocese on a reduction to the Parish Share due to the continuing vacancy. **Action: Tom Murphy to follow up.**
 - 4.2 EOFG account examiner: John Caladine has been appointed as the independent examiner. He charges £1,000 per year of accounts.
 - 4.3 (4.1) No response from the Diocese on the work on trees at Okewood. **Action: Tom Murphy to follow up**
 - 4.4 (6.3) Consolidation of the four Ewhurst funds is complete
 - 4.5 (10.3) The concert with the Cathedral choristers was postponed due to the ill health of the organiser. It is hoped to organise again next year.
5. **Group Reports**
 - 5.1 Deanery Synod - The minutes of the latest Deanery Synod meeting will be distributed by Liz Tingley. It is likely that the Synod will go back to meeting there times a year. **Action: Liz Tingley to send out minutes**
 - 5.2 Friends Groups - The FSPSP have put in another application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the reduced amount of £250,000.
The Friends of Okewood Church have set up a new bank account.
A successful concert was held at Holy Trinity Church.
 - 5.3 Charities - The collection for Ukraine has started.
 - 5.4 Fabric – Repairs have been carried out to the porch and other areas of St Peter & St Paul.

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 As at 31st August there was approx. £7,500 in the account. This will be down to £1,000 or 0 by the end of the year, but there will not be a deficit. There is approx. £30,000 in the bank.
- 6.2 The consolidated Restoration Fund contains £35,000.
- 6.3 The money in the Wilson Room restricted fund is for future repairs.

7. Vacancy

- 7.1 There have been no applications for the vacancy for the parish. A meeting has been set up with the church wardens, Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Catherine Mabuza and the Area Dean. This will be on the 9th October and will discuss the next steps for the parish. It is understood that Bishop Paul had two possible candidates in mind.
- 7.2 A discussion was held on possible ways forward, since the House for Duty model was seen to be difficult with three churches to manage. It was noted that the headcount at the Diocese has increased significantly over the past few years and the possibility of recruiting someone with a speciality that would enable them to work 2-3 days for the Diocese was suggested.
- 7.3 Tony Gauvain proposed that the PCC minutes are posted onto the EOFG website and passed up to the Area Dean. Seconded by Michelle Matthews, passed unanimously.

8. Church Fabric Reports

- 8.1 St Peter & St Paul – Liz Tingley proposed a resolution that the EOFG PCC 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. Seconded by Michelle Matthews and passed unanimously. **Action Liz Tingley and Martin Lockwood to request Faculty.**
- 8.2 St John the Baptist – The porch repair is in hand. The Friends have paid for the disabled access work and a volunteer architect has been found.
- 8.3 Holy Trinity – The state of the roof is not as bad as first thought and causes no health and safety issues. A note of this has been sent to the Archdeacon.

9. Parish Magazine – the future

- 9.1 In the current situation it is difficult to decide on the future of News and Views. If it is to continue, various volunteers will be needed to publish it. Tom Murphy has discussed the idea of an editorial team with Peter Bennett, the current editor.
- 9.2 The December edition will be Peter Bennett's last issue. Tony Gauvain proposed a vote of thanks to Peter, seconded by Tom Murphy and agreed by all.

10. Rectory Update

- 10.1 The family has moved out as agreed. There are leaks and retiling to be done, but the rubbish has been removed.
- 10.2 Liz Tingley has contacted the Bishop about reletting, but this cannot happen until we know the future of the parish. The house can only be let to a family, not a group of individuals, e.g. refugees.
- 10.3 The wardens will raise the issue at the meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon on October 9th. A short term let will be suggested since the house will get cold and damp over the winter. Any heating costs will have to be paid by EOFG. **Action Liz Tingley and Tony Gauvain**

11. Future Events

- 11.1 Liz Tingley proposed a vote of thanks to the Matthews family and Jon Rapley for their fantastic work in organising and running the parish fete. The profit was around £1,000, £77 was raised from the children's section at 50p a go. Seconded by Tom Murphy and all in favour. Clare Harding proposed sending Michelle Matthews some flowers, seconded by Angie Thomas and agreed by all. **Action: Clare Harding to send flowers**
- 11.2 The Ewhurst Harvest Festival service will be on October 6th, followed by a bring and share lunch. Joanna Cadman will contact people about bringing contributions and the board to sign up will be taken to the service at Holy Trinity on Sunday. **Action: Liz Tingley to take board to Forest Green.**
- 11.3 Remembrance Sunday is a joint service with the Baptist church and will be led by Rosemary Burbage. Details are to be finalised but it is hoped that John Shaddock will play the trumpet calls. **Action: Worship Committee**

12. Safeguarding/ Defibrillator/ First Aid

- 12.1 Safeguarding – It appears that the basic course and further three sections of training are still outstanding for some PCC members. However, the difficulties with the system have been acknowledged. Liz Tingley will check with the diocese what has been completed. **Action: Liz Tingley to contact the Diocese.**
A Safeguarding Officer still needs to be appointed.
- 12.2 Defibrillator – The defibrillator at the Glebe Centre is in a box outside the porch and is working. Liz Tingley is in touch with the British Heart Foundation and has applied to their scheme for Charities as it was felt that getting to the Glebe Centre in the dark might be a problem. The cost would be £700 + VAT. Liz was thanked for her work on this.
- 12.3 First Aid – Liz Tingley has contacted Rainbows End Playschool who are holding a First Aid day. It was suggested that this session be open to anyone in the village. This would be a basic course and the payment would be arranged. It might be possible for village charities to contribute to the cost. **Action: Liz Tingley to progress**

13. AOB

The family of Anne Barrett Lennard have expressed her wish for a bench to be purchased and positioned near the Memorial Wall in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul. Her estate will cover all the costs. Agreement may be needed from the Archdeacon. Tony Gauvain proposed the following resolution: PCC agree to apply for a Faculty for permission to have installed in SPSP's churchyard a seating bench that is being donated by recently deceased Ewhurst resident Mrs Anne Barret- Leonard ; details to be confirmed. Seconded by Tom Murphy, all in favour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th November, in the Wilson Room, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Rev Rosemary Mason closed the meeting with prayer.

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Clive Ward
Chair