

**PARISH OF STANFORD IN THE VALE WITH GOOSEY & HATFORD**  
**St Denys – All Saints – St George**

**Minutes for extraordinary meeting –  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Starting at 7.30 pm in Church**

**PRESENT:**

Revd. P. Eddy (PE) <b>Chairman</b>	Mrs J Howard Jones (JHJ)
Mrs. M. Galley (MG)	Mr P. Gill (PG)
Mrs M. Sinclair (MS)	Mrs S Penman (SP)
Mrs J. Gill (JG)	Mr. N. Archer (NA)
Mrs T. Hardman (TH)	Mrs E Ward (EW)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening Prayer</b> – The meeting commenced as PE led in prayer and lit the candle to remind us of God’s Presence.  <b>Apologies for absence:</b> Mrs J. Shippobotham (JS) Mrs J Warren (JW) Mrs Y Upton (YU)
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> - None
<b>3.</b>	<b>Bell Ringers Faculty</b> – DAC have requested some form of formal confirmation that the PCC is happy with the work and the cost. All relevant documentation had been circulated before the meeting. After a brief discussion the meeting commented on the thorough work for this resolution which had been done by Jackie O’Hagan, Tower Captain. <b>The PCC agreed to support the Faculty in the name of Jackie O’Hagan relating to the gudgeon work to the 7<sup>th</sup> Bell in the Tower at St Denys Church as set out in the documentation: proposed by JG and seconded by JHJ. All in favour.</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Financial Position</b> PE and SP had prepared documents regarding financial position, which were circulated before the meeting. Questions had been invited. PE and SP provided clarification and those attending the meeting were encouraged to ask questions and make comments. Discussion ensued for some time, where PCC members expressed their own concerns and offered opinions. It was confirmed that the proceeds of the Bazaar were not included in the figures as they were prepared before it was banked.  The Easement fees for Goosey works for installation of water would be paid from their Building Fund. There would be legal fees from the work being done regarding Goosey Ham land but not for some time. The full 5% Mission budget has not been included for the time being. Our current Parish Share paid by standing order is £40,000 out of a requested £51,000 for 2024.  It was felt that service costs needed to be defined in more detail in future budgets. It was also suggested that further clarification of costs was needed. PE suggested that early next year we have another meeting to discuss what should go under each heading for clarity.

There followed discussion regarding approaching Funds for Grants. PCC has to decide on spending, and it is felt that it should also approve applications for grants.

A background of the Trust offering the grant should be given to PCC, and whether there are any restrictions or conditions attached to the grant. The discussion concluded that we should have a principle of the PCC agreeing which trusts are approached in advance.

## **PCC Motions**

### **Motion 1:**

**The PCC direct the Treasurer to allocate the costs of the Sound System in 2024 to the Reordering Budget Fund.** After a brief discussion to clarify one or two points, the motion was proposed by PG and Seconded by TH. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Motion 2:**

**The PCC authorises the Treasurer to request funds in the CCLA Accessible Notice Deposits (roughly £13,711)** be made available to cover the shortfall in 2024 and shall consider re-allocating the balance back to the Fund once the 2024 accounts have been finalised and audited.

It was confirmed that this is the account usually referred to as 'reserves, rainy day account'. Discussion ensued regarding how much might be needed to cover the shortfall. The predicted figure would be between £7,000 and £8,000.

The motion was proposed by LW and seconded by JG. The motion was carried – 9 in favour, 1 against.

### **Motion 3:**

**At its January meeting the PCC shall fully address the issue of income reduction and look to develop a Stewardship Plan based on the Oxford Diocesan resources.**

Some discussion confirmed that some PCC members had looked at the Stewardship documents in the Diocese resources. Some suggestions were shared for the future, and it was agreed that some diocesan things suggested were in fact already being instigated, such as the contactless giving and QR codes in Goosey. A Contactless machine has been installed at St Denys today. It was also suggested that there are areas we should examine to find ways of cutting costs. The motion was proposed by MG and seconded by MS. Carried unanimously.

### **Things to discuss in January should include:**

**Parish Share:** Major holistic discussions and principles related to how much we can afford.

**Parish Buying Scheme:** Get more involved in this. We already do this for Electricity.

### **Questions for PCC to consider at the meeting:-**

#### **I. What does the PCC wish to convey to the Electoral Roll ahead of 31/12/2024? And how?**

It was pointed out that VAT relief for church building works would end in March and we must bear this in mind and get things started as soon as possible. It was agreed that we should thank those that have given already in a letter. We must be honest and clear about the situation. Let them know we are having to draw on reserves.

It was suggested we have a 'pie chart' for each church to show expenditure.

**2 . What does the PCC wish to convey to the Deanery ahead of 31/12/2024? And projections for 2025 share?**

Acknowledge it affects other parishes. Our intent to get back to paying in full. As a PCC we are praying over it and will re-consider in January 2025.

**3. What does the PCC wish to convey to the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance ahead of 31/12/2024? Plus, projections for 2025 share, including the suggestion of a 'Formal Agreement' to cover over share contribution over the coming five years?**

In January plan to have a list of creative ideas for the meeting. We need to make the budget clearer and raise all issues about the budget.

Re-ordering must be shared with the village once it has been approved by the DAC, which may help them to engage and possibly contribute to the cost.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.** A provisional budget will have been prepared by PE and SP.

The meeting closed with saying The Grace together.