



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Thursday, 1st June 2017

Present:

Father Vincent CURTIS

Tricia DAVIES Chris DRURY Máire FLACK Mike GRIFFITHS Martin HINNIGAN Albert PACE

Dawn STRAKER COOK

Apologies:

Arlene BAREA Cari DEPLA [Martin could only stay for half an hour and offered his apologies]

Fr Vincent opened the meeting with a prayer. There was a change in the order of items discussed in view of Martin having to leave before the end of the meeting.

CHURCH AND HALL HEATING:

Church Boiler: This has to be replaced as soon as possible.

Option 1: Using Gas as we have currently: A new gas supply has to be installed. A quote of between £9K and £10,000 had been received for the boiler, with an additional £3,500 for the gas supply, which includes £1,000 for digging a trench from the road to the new supply. Replacing the radiators (only required in the Hall) would add another £1,366 to the bill and an additional cost for repairs needed to carry the new supply to the Hall. Mike said the cost of digging could be saved if this was undertaken in-house. All in all, the complete package comes in at £14,500 which includes the Hall as well.

Option 2: Pellet System: Mike had looked into an environmentally-friendly pellet-fed boiler. This would save on the heating bill as the Government has offered a two-thirds rebate on running costs for the next 20 years BUT as the initial outlay would be around £20,000 plus an extra £4,000 for an automatic feeder, and installation and storage costs in addition, this was felt to be a non-starter.

Hall: Electrical contractor, Chris Hood, has quoted for electric panel heaters for the Hall at £1,025, with a further £198 for a timer. This was felt to be a very reasonable amount and enables us to consider Option 1 (new boiler and gas supply to the Church) and a separate electrical system for the Hall, which operates independently of the gas system.

Decision: The Committee therefore decided to opt for a new gas supply, a new gas boiler to serve the Church, and a separate electrical system to serve the Hall.

Letter to Derek Salmon, Clifton Diocese: ACTION: Martin to write to the Diocese outlining the current position and giving costs. It was hoped a loan for the work could be obtained from the Diocese. The need for an urgent response would be stressed so that work on the Hall could begin forthwith.

Permission: Application to Wiltshire Council for installation of the gas supply would have to be made immediately as it could take 26 weeks to come through.

Presbytery: Work on the Presbytery would be treated as a separate issue at a later date.

INSPECTION: Father Vincent reported that a representative from Ecclesiastical Insurance is due to inspect the Church buildings on 7th June.

MATTERS ARISING:

Church Windows: ACTION: Mike to organize repair of the window catches at a cost of £160.

Ramp: ACTION: Albert to investigate whether a wheelchair could get through the passage to the rear door of the Hall. He had identified a light-weight ramp (around £140) to replace the heavy wooden one used at present, but it was felt that it would pose the same trip-hazard.

CURRENT BALANCE:

This stands at approximately £14,000 which includes £1,000 for our chosen charity.

FUND RAISING:

Church funds need to be augmented, especially now that we support *Embrace the Middle East*

Plant Sale: Teresa Quinn's plant sale has raised over £120. *Addendum:* The final figure is £168.

100 Club: The Club has been going for 7 months now and with 139 subscribers it is doing well. Tricia put in a plea for subscriptions, due to be renewed in October for the next 12 months, by standing order.

ACTION: Tricia to make an appeal to Parishioners (in the bulletin/after Mass).

Parish BBQ: Albert announced 2nd July as a possible date for this event. *Addendum:* The date has since been confirmed. Mary Cooke is the main organiser of this event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**Legal Change of Status of Diocese:**

(a) Father Vincent said that the change to a Limited Company would mean a change of name. New cheque books would be issued by the National Westminster Bank. The present cheque books are to be destroyed when the new books arrive, as will the current credit cards. There will be a review of signatories; at present Father Vincent and Teresa Quinn are named signatories of the account. HMRC require that an Annual Report will have to be sent to Companies House by 30th September. Also, at the present time, Priests make Class 2 contributions which amount to £135 per annum i.e. £2.85 per week. Under the new system, Priests will make Class 3 contributions, which will mean an increase to £750 per annum i.e. £14.25 per week.

(b) There was mention of having to obtain a Premises Licence but as, for example, no alcohol is sold on the premises, this would not affect St Edmund's.

New £1 coins: Máire mentioned the requirement by banks to separate the old coins from the new when paying in. Banks were within their rights to refuse to accept mixed £1 coinage.

Nympsfield Summer Camps for young people: Albert had been approached by a parishioner about St Edmund's subsidising these camps. But Father Vincent felt that this was a non-Parish matter and that the Parish is committed to supporting the Confirmation group weekend at St Cassian's Centre in Kintbury. A £200 deposit has already been made for this event. Father Vincent confirmed that parents of Confirmation candidates attending will be making a contribution to the event.

Father Vincent brought the meeting to a close with a prayer and thanks to all present for their attendance.

**THE NEXT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, 17th AUGUST 2017 at 7.30p.m.**