

ALRESFORD METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 7th October 2020 on Zoom

1. **Opening Devotions** led by Revd Adrian Roux on Mark 4.35-41, Stilling the storm
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Diane Pugh.
3. a) **Constitution of the Church Council** Agreed
b) **Trustee declaration forms.** Signed forms received from Sue Dinnis & Wendy Ward.
Trustee declaration renewal agreed every 5 years. Next renewal April 2024

4. **Property**

Property Steward, Chris Wood presented a detailed report of essential work required during the next 12 months, following the Quinquennial Inspection in Jan. '20. About £3000 has already been spent to rectify leaks in the roof without success. Quotations are being sought from builders who will offer a guarantee for the flat roof of the kitchen and the pitched roof of the hall. Once a builder is on site it is hoped that the lead saddle around the cross on the church roof can be extended to reduce the possibility of leakage. Internal damage to ceilings due to water ingress may be a legitimate claim through Methodist Insurance. Council agreed to ring fence the budgeted figure of £18700 to be spent in the next 6-9 months to repair the roof and make good internally. The treasurer has an application form for a Circuit grant. Local organizations like the Rotarians and Alresford Pigs to be approached for possible funding. Chris and Carolyn will include in the Welcome Sheet a statement of property work required and likely cost, requesting a volunteer to approach local organizations. The Council agreed that work should proceed as soon as possible and could go ahead without the need for a full Council meeting. The treasurer confirmed that planned maintenance was covered in the church budget.

Action: Chris to obtain 3rd quote & confirm existing two, NB Guarantee

Treasurer & Property Steward to decide on preferred contractor.

Chris & Carolyn to inform congregation through the Welcome Sheet of details and cost of work required, requesting a volunteer to approach local organizations.

The church neighbour has offered to pay for the replacement of the boundary fence and is requesting occasional access by a gate at the rear, but no right of way. Although some members were content with this, Adrian felt it needed to be considered at Circuit level by the Circuit Property Secretary and the Superintendent.

Action: Adrian to seek advice from Circuit Property Secretary & Superintendent

5. **Finance**

The treasurer presented a financial statement to the year end in August that was better than expected, aided by extra hours of 3-4-5 Playgroup use and lower costs due to closure. However the 2020-21 Budget forecasts a shortfall of £5750 assuming no hiring of the hall, minimum fundraising opportunities. Discussion ensued on generating income from hall/room letting. The Rainbows group (AoB Item 17) has requested resuming meeting. A Karate group has enquired about booking the hall. For both, a risk assessment would be required, licences need to be signed and cleaning to be undertaken by the hirers, to church specification. A question on the level of Alresford's circuit assessment at a circuit meeting of treasurers was answered by the Circuit Treasurer that when the Lay Pastor is in post Alresford would not be receiving any less circuit time. Assessments are based on income. A tithing gift of £178 to be sent to Winchester Youth Counselling.

The Council approved the 4th quarter comparative summary and the budget for 2020-21.

The summary of accounts, now independently examined, requires signature before sending to the Circuit.

Action: Adrian to sign 2019-20 Summary Accounts.

6. **Worship**

For the Winter Circuit Preaching Plan a decision was needed on worship on Christmas Day and 27th December. It was decided to opt for a Christmas Day service.

On charities to support through retiring collections after communion services it was decided to continue with Future Pillars Zambia and the Fund for Human Need this year, and keep the two new suggestions of Send a Cow and Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund for the future.

7. **GDPR**

Teresa confirmed to Brian that Covid attendance records were kept securely for 3 weeks and shredded during the 4th week.

8. **Safeguarding** as tabled

9. **Circuit Report** as tabled

10. **Stewards Report** as tabled. It was agreed that 'Sunday Steward' was an appropriate title for those former stewards who have agreed to assist, proposed by Ruth, seconded by Maureen.

11. **Pastoral** as tabled

12. **Social and Fundraising and Outreach** as tabled

13. **Mission** as tabled

14. **Churches Together in Alresford** as tabled

15. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2020**

Agreed as a fair record. **Require signing by Adrian.**

16. **Matters arising from the minutes, not already discussed.**

There were none.

17. **Any Other Business**

Rainbows resumption already discussed under item 5.

18. **Deferred Special Resolution** Use of Methodist premises by other churches

As Managing Trustees of Alresford Methodist Church we are required to consider and vote on an amendment to Methodist law giving more discretion to local Trustees in granting permission for our premises to be used by other Christian churches. Adrian explained a very lengthy document in layman's terms. The vote was unanimous 12 in favour, none against.

Action: Secretary to inform the Circuit secretary of the results of voting.

19. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 21st April 2021. Reports for Circulation by 7th April 2021