

**Thornthwaite, Braithwaite and Newlands Parochial Parish Council**  
**Minutes of TBN PCC Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm, St Herbert's Church Hall**

*Date/ Time of Next PCC Meeting: TBA*

Attendees: Andy Murphie, Don Thoburn, Anne Thoburn, Anthony Simpson, Robert Canham, Roy Butcher, Hannah Roberts, Alison Biggs (via Online Streaming Link).

Apologies: N/A

1.0 Prayer

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting agreed (24.06.21)

3.0 Buildings

3.1 St Mary's: Update from members of The PCC. AM reminded members that at present Quinquennial Architect (Ian Wells) and DAC hold conflicting views regarding restoration of the church specifically with regard to water resilience and flooring. Meeting organised with Rachel Gerrard (flood resilience engineer) on 21.07.21 with view to discuss drainage issues which may provide viable solutions regarding the floor and heating within the church. To update members of PCC at next meeting.

Meeting organised with Ian Wells on 20.08.21 to discuss options for flooring and walls and also approximate pricing for restoration work (DT).

Highways England also contacted. Email received from Highways England states that they are aware of flooding/ rising water table in the area but are still looking at feasible options (design stage) which will seek to alleviate water retention in the area.

Organ (St Mary's): Discussion regarding future of organ with specific consideration as to cost of storage and repair. At present organ costs £1200 per annum in storage and approximate costs of repair £45,000. Organ cannot be restored to church until humidity reaches certain levels (so after renovation of building, drainage and flooring). No appetite to consider alternative solutions at this stage e.g. replacement organ. To continue same arrangement at present.

3.2 St Herbert's: Nil outstanding issues

3.3 Newlands: Regarding reserving burial plots. Decision made by PCC members that only current residents in the locality will be able to reserve a burial plot given restricted space available in graveyard.

Update from Peter Williams received and considered by members of PCC. As per attached.

Consideration regarding reinstating teas (for visitors) at Newlands in The Autumn. To discuss with PW regarding whether donations should be ringfenced to FONC or made available to general fund (action point).

4.0 Finance

- 4.1 Treasurer's Update: RB updated PCC members regarding current finances for PCC. Handover not yet fully completed as certain anomalies identified. RB is liaising with CH regarding these queries. It is apparent that outgoings and fixed costs are far in excess of donations and incoming resources for 2021. Likely deficit in excess of £14,000 over the next 6 months. Most feasible options to consider payment terms for loan from Diocese (currently £943 a month) and/or to significantly reduce parish offering.

Update on 2020 Examination of accounts. Now almost complete, again with a few queries outstanding. Details of queries already forwarded to CH for further discussion.

Update on Signatories. Colin Grant has begun the process of transferring signatories on the 2 main bank accounts (Barclays and HSBC). New signatories will be AM, RB, AS and HR (any 2 to authorise transactions).

Decision to set up finance sub-committee to discuss matters further. Members AS, RB, HR.

- 4.2 Fundraising: Discussion regarding pet blessing ceremony to be held in October. AM/RC to check diaries and liaise regarding possible dates. Template ceremony schedule handed out for further consideration.
- Letter to second home-owners within the parish to encourage regular giving also considered. Awaiting CH for template letter previously used in Borrowdale valley.

## 5.0 Reports and Correspondence

Foundation Governor Position available at Braithwaite Primary School. Responsibility delegated to AM to suggest suitable candidate.

## 6.0 Services

Discussion regarding assigning roles and responsibilities at church services e.g. flowers, teas etc. Friends of Thornthwaite utilise rota system. RC to discuss with Jenny regarding coordinating similar volunteer rota approach in Braithwaite. To recruit volunteers via weekly email.

Environmental Church Services (CTiK Climate Change service/ September 2021): AM suggested using model employed at Crosthwaite within the TBN Parish.

## 7.0 Any Other Business

- 7.1 Church Services at Newlands. 6 services a year are required in order to apply for grants. AM aware of this and is happy to coordinate with others regarding future dates. Services are currently scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> Or 19<sup>th</sup> December plus a date to be agreed in September or October.
- 7.2 Safeguarding. The parish requires the election of a safeguarding officer. This will need to be considered by members of The PCC.
- 7.3 Update on contactless card machine. AM is currently chasing location of delivery. AM has already set up corresponding accounts for the parish on 'Parish buying' and 'give a little', plus an account on 'Sum Up'. The card machine remains free for the first year and then is chargeable at a rate of £10 per month thereafter. Each transaction will attract a fee. There is a £30 charge for a telephone sim card which is required for set-up.

- 7.4 AM agreed to liaise with Bruce Mumford (Carlisle Diocese) regarding possible heating solutions for St Mary's. AM to also contact Carlisle Diocese and liaise with Organ Advisor regarding future requirements for St Mary's organ.
- 7.5 MW has approached AM to express an interest in becoming a member of The PCC. AS to liaise with MW and invite her to next PCC meeting.
- 7.6 Discussion regarding ongoing costs relating to Atlantic Geometrics. Company provides digital maps of graveyard at Newlands and St Mary's. AM to discuss with CH regarding whether manual system could be used as an alternative given current burden of costs to PCC. Current monthly payments to Atlantic Geometrics is £24 for both graveyards.
- 7.7 Discussion regarding relaxation of COVID restrictions within England on 19.07.21. Members were agreed that given current rising case numbers and vulnerability of some church members it was wise to retain current practices e.g. wearing face masks, QR posters, hand sanitisers, social distancing parameters.
- 7.8 DT informed PCC members that repair to tea urn in St Herbert's Hall has now been completed. Tea urn continues to fill slowly and so will require replacement filter (to be completed by Nick Cripps). Invoice to be forwarded to PCC for completed works.

8.0 Meeting closed with a Prayer.