

HELMDON CHURCH COUNCIL (HCC) MEETING ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2023 AT CHURCH STREET HELMDON

Present

Cliff Netten (in the Chair) Bill Elkington Judith Elkington Fiona Mason
Rebecca Mount Ann Netten Niki Phillips Jenny Saunders Ann Smith
Paul Stothard

Apologies for absence

Penny Bonner Wiggy Smith Vanessa Vicars

Minutes of the last Meeting (25 January 2023) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were Agreed as a true record. Matters Arising were:

1. There was still no news from the DAC about our re-ordering project. However, Cliff had been in contact with our Architect and established that he will carry out a site survey and subsequent feasibility study.
2. We all agreed that the roof work had been effective in keeping out recent heavy rain. It seemed likely that puddles in the toilet area were down to careless use of the tap, resulting in heavy splashes onto the floor.
3. More oil had been bought and should last us well now that warmer weather can be expected.
4. We all agreed that the Pancake breakfast had been very popular, but that prices would need to go up next year to cover steeply rising ingredient costs.
5. There were still issues over the sound system; we would discuss this at our next meeting and consider options to fund the much-needed improvement.
6. Cliff had sent Council Minutes to Sarah Rudkin and put a hard copy in the church porch.

Finance

Ann N had drawn up first Quarter 2023 Accounts as circulated before the meeting. All parishes now presented their Accounts in the same format.

Our high Utilities expenses reflected the recent heating oil purchase which was mostly met from a grant received in 2022 from the Diocese.

We discussed how we best explain to our supporters what we spend our income on; it was essential to maintain income to meet both Parish Share and running expenses.

We also agreed to stop in-service collections using bags and revert to a Plate available both before and after each service.

Council also expressed concern about our lack of charitable fundraising for disasters such as the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The amazing response to clothing and food collections for Ukraine showed what might be achieved. **Action:** Cliff to discuss possible approaches with others in the wider community.

Summer Fete, 1 July 2023

Vanessa had drawn up a very helpful list of key tasks. A sub-Committee would drive this forward when she had returned from holiday. We spoke about involving the school, noting that our hosts were concerned about any activities or games with injury risks. The meeting was in favour of activities that would draw families into the fete rather than a separate event. Rebecca would speak to the staff about possibilities. Bill agreed to contact Silverstone about a raffle prize.

Other Fundraising events

1. Trad Band evening with drinks and nibbles. Jenny would check their availability for May and September dates;
2. Themed film and meal. Possibly in September – to be decided;
3. Race Night. This had been a success last autumn, even if numbers had been a little lower than hoped for. Possibly another one in November;
4. Christmas Fair – for 2 or 9 December. Cliff has checked Reading Room availability and both dates are free – should we decide on 2 December?
5. Given the King's Coronation event taking place, it had been decided not to run an Open Gardens Day this year.
6. We noted that the Friends of Helmdon church were canvassing support for a possible Safari Supper on 17 June.

Quinquennial Review

Cliff had been in contact with our Architect, with three possible dates in August for the physical inspection to take place.

We also needed a separate electrical system Inspection and Report in advance of the building inspection, and arrangements for that were in hand.

APCM on 23 April

Cliff thanked all Council Officers and Members for their hard work during the past year, and hoped they would be prepared to stand for Election once again. Formal nominations would be taking place very soon.

Pastoral Care

We briefly discussed this topic, noting also that there was no-one to represent Wappenham in the Benefice Group.

Worship

There were Ordained Ministers to conduct services between May and October, although care was needed to avoid asking them to do more than one service in the Benefice on Sundays. Paul was in discussion with the Benefice Administrator about cover for Christmas services if we had no Incumbent by then.

Bill needed to know well in advance what he needed to prepare for services; a recent one had been very last-minute.

During Holy Week Rebecca would bring children along a trail through the village, probably starting at Cross Lane and ending at church.

Fiona and Paul to discuss practicalities of taking the cross up through the village centre to church on Good Friday.

The Easter Sunday service at Helmdon would begin at 10:15. A Dawn Fire gathering (without a formal service) would take place at Radstone: Fiona to check with Penny Bonner about the detail.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 22 May, again at Ann Smith's house in Church Street

We ended with The Grace