Aldingham; Dendron and Rampside parish APCM Minutes

Date : 22 May 2023

Venue : Rampside Village Hall

Present

Avis Edmondson; Anne Cowley; Robert Wheatley; Derek Wells; Alan Davies; Chris Hool; Malcolm Rayner; Keith Butterfield; Janet Butler; Georgina Sherwood; Rev Martin Williams; Jim Webster (chair); Rev Graham Tate; Brenda Webster

Apologies

Margaret Tate; Rita Williams; William Towers; Phil Lister

JW opened the meeting by informing all present the meeting would be recorded as the secretary was not present due to illness.

Rev Martin Williams opened in prayer

JW stated that the meeting is actually 3 meetings

1 Vestry meeting (election of Church Wardens)

2 APCM

3 First meeting on New PCC

Vestry Meeting

1 Election of Church Wardens

Two nominations for Church Warden papers presented : Jim Webster and Phil Lister

4 places are available only 2 nominations Both nominees elected

2 We don't as yet have a date for admission of Church Wardens as the Arch Deacon is on leave Expect a date in due course.

That concludes the Vestry Meeting

APCM

1 JW : Minutes of meeting held Monday 25th April 2022 were circulated. Anyone propose they are a true correct record.

CH : Where were minutes circulated?

JW said they were normally put in the ARD churches or on the notice boards.

CH : stated she hadn't seen the minutes.

Post Meeting Note : Minutes of 2022 meeting were circulated to PCC members by email (18th May) and hard copy for those not on email.

RW : stated he hadn't seen the minutes

KB : stated he hadn't seen the minutes

JW : Confirmed the meeting was being recorded for the benefit of the secretary who is absent due to illness. Can't answer definitively how minutes were circulated – ask secretary to send letter when recovered from illness

JW: proposed the minutes were a true and correct record – no objections – minutes accepted

KB: raised Gleaston meeting – why had minutes not been circulated?

JW: this was not a PCC meeting

Post Meeting note to clarify issues raised by Keith Butterfield

The meeting was organised and run by the Archdeacon whose decision it is whether the meeting should be minuted or not.

CH/ KB raise the issue of notices for this APCM.

GT : stated that notices were post at all the churches. Aldingham on the notice board in the church and Dendron on the church door as the notice board at the end of the path was locked.

CH: confirmed the notice board is the parish council and only they have the key.

MR : offered to ascertain the whereabouts of the key to the notice board.

KB : questioned why the meeting notice hadn't been put in the newsletter

JW : stated the meeting notice was also announced at church services within the parish (Aldingham and Rampside)

Reports

Electoral Role

Rampside 28 of which 16 live in parish and 12 outside

Dendron 23 of which 17 live in parish and 6 outside

Aldingham 35 of which 18 live in parish and 17 outside

Treasurers report

The Treasurer was unwell and should not have attended the meeting. She tried to explain that because of her illness she had not been able to complete the accounts and have them properly checked.

In summary, her verbal report was that the accounts of the Parish of Aldingham, Dendron and Rampside are still given in three parts, as the three churches within the parish have separate funds which cannot be used for the other churches.

She attempted to give a brief summary, but she pointed out that due to the viral infection and chest infection she was struggling to think. The summary was basically that the parish of Aldingham, Dendron and Rampside faced long term problems if it couldn't reduce costs or increase income. The three individual sets of accounts all painted a picture of decline.

People asked from the floor when the accounts would be ready. Because the Treasurer was struggling so much the Chair stepped in to say that they would be presented when the Treasurer was fit enough to finish them, and they had been independently verified in accordance with established procedure.

AD: raised historic actions at Dendron where a proportion of burial fees was allocated to the Dendron churchyard maintenance fund. Was this to continue?

JW : responded that it is not a CoE requirement but Dendron specific policy, which will not be continued as the churchyard fund is well funded (over £7000) and money is required to pay the running costs of the building.

The question as to when the accounts would be ready was repeated elsewhere, and because it was starting to look like the bullying of somebody who was too ill to cope, the Chair stepped in to ask whether people were happy to accept the accounts would be presented when the Treasurer was fit to do them or not. He stated that if anybody wasn't happy, their objection would be formally minuted. At this point nobody wished to make an objection and the Chair moved on to the next business.

<u>Secretary Report</u>

Secretary ill report will be circulated when she is well enough to write one.

<u>Churchyards and Fabric</u>

Warden's Report 31st December 2022

On the 28th June we got the quinquennial report for Dendron. There was a meeting in early 12th September. The PCC discussed matters on the 17th October and a letter was sent out to those who had attended and had asked to be contacted. Responses received were considered at the PCC meeting on the 21st November and it was decided to discuss with the Diocese handing the church back to them. We're still at the paperwork stage.

With Rampside matters have moved slowly, we've talked to the church commissioners a couple of times and there have been meetings in the church with them.

In Aldingham unfortunately Phil's not available as he is otherwise engaged. But the Aldingham Quinquennial due 2023 at least booked

KB : Queried the distribution of Quinquennial report

JW : Wardens received Dendron Quinquennial report on 28 June 22. The open meeting at Gleaston village Hall was held on 12 Sept and the outcome discussed at a PCC meeting on 17 Oct.

Note : the Open meeting at Gleaston was run by the Archdeacon, not the PCC, as per the CoE process

RW : complained about the late distribution of minutes of meetings

The matter was raised by Keith Butterfield that he had been contacted by the police with regard to a possible break-in at Dendron church.

Post Meeting note to clarify issues raised by Keith Butterfield

The circumstances appear to have been as follows. When the Chair of the PCC attended the church with a locksmith to change the locks, the previous locks having been damaged, the locksmith pointed out that the main door to the church had been tampered with.

Because we had a short time previously had an email from the diocese warning us that there had been a spate of break-ins in churches, (and indeed in Barrow there had been a spate of petty thefts which hit several Barrow churches and the Food Bank) it was decided to contact the police.

It appears that somebody living locally had decided that the door needed work to relieve the strain on the masonry. Hence they decided to tackle the door to solve this problem. If they had thought to contact the owner of the building or those legally responsible for it, before attempting work on it, this sort of issue could be avoided.

Robert Wheatley raised the issue of the need to do work on the windows of Aldingham.

Post Meeting note to clarify issues raised by RW

According to him the Parish 'lost £1500' or thereabouts due to the faculty to fix the windows being allowed to lapse. Also there was apparently far more 'lost' because the previous incumbent never applied to the Garfield Weston Foundation. He also stated that had it not been for the incumbent all eight windows would have been fixed.

Whilst I don't purport to be an expert, but a check of the accounts of the old Aldingham parish shows that there was a faculty fee £190. There was a further £900 architect's report paid for which is covered by a parallel donation from the Friends of Aldingham Church. Unfortunately we do not have a copy of the faculty to refer to.

Since the meeting I have talked to the Garfield Weston Foundation. Every year they will have funds and awards. These normally close in January, which is before Rev Lunn came into the benefice. They did have a special anniversary fund in 2018 which was 'on top' of their normal one, but that was so oversubscribed it was closed for applications long before the benefice could have applied. I have been assured by the Garfield Weston Foundation that the Church of England is one of the charities that they are happy to contribute to, so we can apply for a grant in any funding round. We haven't 'lost' their funding. We have as much chance of getting it next year or the year after as we had of getting it in 2018.

If it is decided to apply to them in future, it would have to be a collaborative funding bid, as there are questions only the parish could really answer, such as, "what are you doing to improve your building's environmental efficiency," and, "What is your organisation's approach to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion?"

Also the application guidance states, "Normally, our capital grants are no more than 10% of a total project cost. However, for local community projects (e.g. village halls, community centres, places of worship, etc.), grants are likely to be no greater than £30,000 regardless of the project size." They expect projects to be co-funded, and an application should be accompanied by quotes for capital projects which are no more than three months old, where possible." It also states, "Grants vary depending on the total cost and scope of the project however our grants tend to be 10–20% of your total project cost."

In fact the application material has one very interesting piece of advice, "If your organisation has an annual income of under £100,000 you may find it easiest to apply for a contribution to your core costs, rather than

applying for a specific project. The majority of our grants are to small and vital charities so we are very open to applications for uncomplicated, core costs."

With regard to the windows, neither I, the current PCC, nor the previous incumbent have had access to the faculty, but I do have a report of the DAC which reported into the condition of the church at Aldingham 26.07.2021. The report states,

"Faculty permission had been granted in 2018 for repairs to four nave windows including surrounding stone dressings and leaded lights (plain, undecorated glass), but this has now expired. It was noted that a total of eight windows needed repointing and repairs, although most do not need to be re-leaded or have masonry repairs."

And

"The minor repairs to the windows (repointing) can be carried out under List B (Archdeacon's permissions) if the mortar is first checked by the DAC."

Given that the DAC meeting had the advantage of two architects, Mr Malcolm Craig who produced the report, and Chloe Granger of Crosby Granger Architects, I think we can give it precedence over a previous report by one of them on his own. Indeed with the Quinquennial inspection coming up, hopefully this year, it may be possible to get enough details for the faculty, minimising further unnecessary expense.

Indeed doing all eight windows at once could well be cheaper than doing four and then bringing people back on site to do another four.

One issue that should also be mentioned at this point. I have discussed the matter with various officers within the diocese. Putting up plaques or similar bearing the name of the donor who paid for the window would have to be included in the faculty and the feeling was that it would not be allowed.

Another comment Mr Wheatley made was that there has been no work done on the Church at Aldingham in the last few years. Apart from a little money spent by the Friends of Aldingham Church on grass cutting this, to the best of my knowledge, is true.

But when you look at the Charity Commission website, for the Friends of Aldingham Church, we read:-

https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1118264&subid=0

Income and expenditure

Data for financial year ending 04 June 2022

Total income: £10,340

Total expenditure: £3,180

Total income includes £4,275 from 2 government grant(s)

Now the charitable purposes of the Friends of Aldingham Church are also set out on the same website.

"To advance the Christian religion by providing and assisting in the restoration, preservation, repair, improvement and beautification of Aldingham church and by providing additional facilities and contributing towards the cost of maintaining the ministry at the church and the day to day costs incidental thereto for and on behalf of the parochial church council of St Cuthbert's church, Aldingham."

So the PCC has a legal duty to ask, where exactly this £3,180 was spent, and what were the two government grants claimed for? The church knows nothing of any grants being applied for with regard to the charitable purposes of the Friends of Aldingham Church.
It was suggested to me that the money may have been spent on the toilet block at Aldingham.

Obviously church and toilet block have to be kept entirely separate. Not doing so would leave a charity open to complaint if, for example, somebody donates money towards the maintenance of the toilet block and discovers that it is being used towards day to day costs of the Church. Whilst the PCC might possibly be convinced to accept the inclusion of the toilet block within the charitable purposes of the Friends of Aldingham Church, the Charity Commission would still have to be informed and the charitable purposes ideally amended to avoid the possibility of complaint.

Deanery Synod Report

In the February meeting the synod discussed the Mission Community Day at Kepplewray and the way forward from there.

In the June meeting the synod discussed 'Shaping the church and ministry through challenge and change with the Arch deacon leading the discussion

In the November meeting the synod was addressed by Bishop Rob giving us a chance to meet him.

Election of PCC

Nominations : Avis Edmondson; Brenda Webster; Sonjie Marshall; Maggie Turbett

As there are still vacant places all were duly elected

Church Architect

Crosby Granger were approved.

Safeguarding Policy

Adopted Diocesan policy

The meeting closed with the Grace

PCC Meeting to be arranged when key people are recovered from illness