

FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES

Registered Charity 1080363

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2014 at 7.00pm

At Leeds church

Present : Peter Coleman, Jan Enever (Treasurer), Mike Evans, Nigel Fry, Christine Sharp (Chair), Richard Stileman (Vice Chair), Judi Taylor (Secretary), Michelle Webb, Sue Wotton.

Guest from 8pm : Brian Hardy

Apologies: Jenny Hoy, Amanda Page, Martin Sharp.

Minutes of last meeting

All agreed the minutes were a correct record of the last committee meeting and Christine signed them.

Matters Arising

All actions from the last meeting had been completed or would be covered below or in the agenda items.

Mike has written to all couples married in Leeds or Broomfield churches in the last 3 years (around 20 couples) but has had no response.

Welcome pack for new residents – Mike has discussed this with the Parish Clerk who is in the process of changing what the Parish Council do and Mike will revert to Gail again to progress. **Action : HME**

Fundraising

Christine explained that before the AGM started she wanted to assess how the Committee felt about joining with the PCC on a major fundraising campaign for Leeds church. This would be in addition to our normal events and with the PCC. She is a member of the PCC and this had been suggested by the PCC at their last meeting. However she felt strongly that we were an independent organisation from the PCC and had our own event calendar and would not have the resources to undertake a separate additional major fundraising campaign for Leeds church.

A discussion then took place about our remit as an organisation and references were made to the Constitution with some members wondering if we should amend the Constitution to broaden our remit. It was pointed out that this would be a long and contentious process and we had worked very well under the current Constitution for many years, so why change it. Most members of the Committee agreed that we were an independent organisation from the PCC and did not want to change that in order to work with or for the PCC.

At this stage the Committee meeting was discontinued for half an hour for the AGM to take place.

AGM Attendance

When the Committee meeting recommenced at 8pm there ensued a short discussion on how to improve attendance at the AGM as no one other than the Committee and Brian Hardy had attended tonight despite advertising on noticeboards and in the Village News. Mike said next year he would contact members of the Friends and try to ensure more people attended. Jan suggested that we might consider having the AGM meeting in the afternoon with tea and cakes instead of the evening when it was cold and dark. Most of our members are retired and would be able to make an afternoon meeting more readily than an evening. Everyone agreed this might be a good alternative plan for next year.

Treasurer's Report

Current A/c	£ 2,521.63
Deposit A/c	£ 31,953.77
Total	£ 34,475.40

Membership Secretary's Report

Mike will look at amending the Membership process as a result of the AGM discussion and will Email the Committee with his recommendations. The new noticeboards in the two churches are very effective and had generated some new members. There was a short discussion about the possibility of reconsidering reducing the prices of events for members but eventually this was rejected. **Action : HME.**

Social Secretary Report

Plums – This year the plum picking generated over £2700 in 9 days of picking. The average over the 6 years we have been doing this is £3,000 with one bumper year in 2011 when we raised £4,000 in 10 days. This year we had suffered some heavy rain on one weekend which really affected takings. Sue and Peter suggested setting up a stall outside the church to sell punnets of plums to passing trade but it was decided this would be a lot of extra work on top of an already challenging process for the Committee; however it was decided that having some punnets of picked plums ready on the stall in the orchard for purchase might be a good compromise. Mike would like to see improved signs and he has asked a local man to quote for preparing new look signs. Judi suggested the possibility of considering opening the plum stall for two days in the week when the plums were at their best, as this year a lot of plums were wasted in the best week because they started to drop off the trees. It was decided to leave a decision on whether to do this to the plum stall management team next year. Richard felt that 5 weekends was too much and recommended that we move this down to 4. This was agreed as the best way forward. A sub-committee would be set up next year before the next plum harvest in order to progress some of these ideas. **Action : HME/RS**

Concert in Leeds church – Peter Brice and his choir 'Straight Eight' are still keen to put on a concert with proceeds to the Friends in March 2015. There would be no charge from Peter and the choir for their appearance at this event. It was suggested we should do wine and canapés in the interval and get a one day licence to enable us to sell wine. The licence can be obtained online for £21. Ticket price suggested as £12 with separate payment for the wine. Richard will follow up with Peter and will report back at the next meeting. **Action: RS**

Future Events 2015 – After some discussion it was agreed that we would put on another Jazz in the Garden in July 2015 (possibly 12 July). Christine felt that a barbeque might be a nice change rather than picnics but we did not want to lose the tea and cakes in the interval as they had proved very profitable in the past. Sub-committee to be set up for this event in 2015 and would decide the final format of the day. Judi to enquire of the Jazz Men which dates available in July 2015. Richard kindly offered use of his garden again for this event. **Action : JT**

Fabric Report

Brian Hardy (Chair of the PCC) had asked to attend this Committee meeting in order to ask for the Friends assistance with the Quinquennial repair costs for Leeds church. Apparently the condition of the roof and the stonework are in such a poor condition that English Heritage are considering treating Leeds church as a listed building 'at risk'. The stonework is falling to pieces – Brian passed round pictures of the stonework. The PCC are intending to make a Heritage Lottery Fund application for help with the cost which is around £190,000 including VAT. However the VAT can be claimed back by the church. The work would be in two phases but you cannot apply for the second phase until the first phase work is completed. Brian produced the attached funding analysis for phase one of the proposed work on Leeds church.

Brian asked if the Friends would act as a fundraising agent for the PCC as he said there was no one on the PCC now who could undertake this role. Some discussion took place but the Committee felt that the Friends were an independent organisation and did not want to act as a fundraising agent for the PCC we had our own event calendar and felt that we did not have the resources to mount a separate and additional high profile fund raising event for the PCC. Brian suggested that an alternative might be to dedicate our funds raised in the next two years to Leeds church quinquennial repairs. There followed a discussion about the fact that Broomfield church had equally bad stonework problems, in fact it was so bad that the Friends had had to pay for a fence to be put around the church walls to protect people from falling masonry. And we had only just paid out over £7K for the redecoration in Leeds church. It was generally felt that it was now time to spend funds on Broomfield.

Brian felt that the work on Leeds church was more urgent than that on Broomfield and more discussion followed. Eventually the following proposal was made : ' It is proposed that the Friends contribute up to £4550 to the cost of

Leeds church quinquennial repairs from our fundraising over the next two years' This was agreed by the Committee. There was a further proposal in light of the discussion about the Broomfield quinquennial repairs to the tower beam and the stonework – that we should commit up to the same amount (£4550) from our reserves to Broomfield over the next two years for a contribution to the cost of the quinquennial repairs. This again was generally agreed by the Committee.

The point was then raised that in light of the contribution Brian had requested from the Friends (£4550) for Leeds church it was felt the contribution of just £2000 proposed to come from the PCC towards the quinquennial repair costs was very low in comparison, especially given that Leeds church has a substantial Restoration fund which Mike confirmed and said that in total the Leeds available reserves amounted to £55K. Brian agreed to put this point to the PCC at their next meeting.

Christine asked Brian what the status was on the beam repair at Broomfield and he said action from the contractor was awaited. Viz work on providing a motor for the organ pump at Broomfield again this was awaiting attendance by the contractor although the power provision had already been completed. The work on the lighting in the tower area at Broomfield was hoped to be completed under the same faculty as had been obtained for the tower beam repair. Brian agreed to keep the Friends updated on progress.

Publicity/Website

Clive is very responsive and keeps the website up to date promptly. Peter and Sue will ask him to add a counter to see how many hits we get on the website as this is a free feature.

Action : PC/SW

Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 8 January 2015 at 7.30pm at Church Farmhouse, Broomfield.