

FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES

Registered Charity 1080363

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27 October 2016 at 4 .00pm

At St Nicholas church, Leeds

Present : Jan Enever (Treasurer), Mike Evans, Jenny Hoy, Rev Steven Hughes, Amanda Page, Pauline Royer, Christine Sharp (Chair), Martin Sharp, Judi Taylor (Secretary).

Welcome and Apologies: Christine welcomed Rev Hughes, our new Vicar at Leeds and Broomfield and as the current incumbent he would become the President of the Friends as per our Constitution. Rev Hughes said he was happy to become President and help in whatever way he could.

Apologies had been received from Michelle Webb.

Minutes of last meeting

All agreed the minutes of 14 July 2016 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 on the agenda or in the minutes.

Election of Social Secretary and Membership Secretary

Jenny Hoy agreed to stand as Social Secretary and Amanda Page as Assistant Social Secretary, they were unanimously elected. Mike Evans agreed to stand as Membership Secretary and he was unanimously elected.

Reports and Plan

- Treasurer's Report

£ 1,468.42 Current Account
£37,297.34 Deposit Account
<hr/>
£38,765.76 TOTAL

The total above is after we have paid the agreed £6,000 to the PCC towards the roof repairs at Leeds church which are now underway.

- Membership Secretary Report

Mike reported that we now had 116 members, two new members had joined since last meeting as a result of an email Mike had sent to new neighbours. In regard to the planned promotional posters which aim to recruit new members, Mike showed the two posters that he and Hannah Royer had worked on and he reported that these had been shown to various people at the Plums and each poster was equally liked by everyone spoken to. It was therefore decided to use both but Christine to approve content before use please.

Action : HME

- Social Secretary Report

Plums Closeout Report

Jan reported that the total raised this year was £3902.25, this was the second best result we have had with the plums and Christine thanked everyone who had helped and particularly Mike who had set up and taken down the stall each day and who had also, with help from Tom Hoy, put up and taken down the publicity notices around the roads. She also thanked Judi for sorting out the rotas again.

Many customers commented positively on the notices around the roads and many customers were returning from previous year's plumbing.

Simon has indicated that he would be happy to offer the plums for next year but after that we would have to wait and see as at some stage he would like to retire.

Mike reported that the gazebo was hanging on in there but we would seriously need to consider buying a new one next year as it is so dilapidated now it could easily be blown away. Mike would look at the prices for buying a new one.

Mike also pointed out that we had difficulty this year with providing carrier bags for customers who didn't bring their own, shops are not now giving these away free so the supply has dried up. We may need to buy our own, he will look into this and report back.

Action : HME

- Events in 2017

Pauline, Jenny and Amanda felt that a Beer Festival might be a good idea for 2017, Pauline had attended a recent similar event and it was very well attended and successful. Some discussion took place about possible venues but no decisions were reached and it was decided to set up a sub-committee of Pauline, Jenny and Amanda to investigate further and report back at the next Committee meeting.

Action : PR/JH/AP

- Fabric Report

See the attached report from Brian Hardy. Brian asked that the Friends should be thanked for our contribution of £6000 towards the roof repairs at Leeds church.

He also reported that action was now underway, as requested by the Friends, in regard to the work urgently needed at Broomfield church in respect of the repointing of the tower stonework. An initial broad brush quote of around £72,000 had been mentioned by Brian in his report and Christine asked Judi to write to Brian and ask for more detailed quotes as soon as these were available.

Mike pointed out, as a member of the PCC, that in all the applications Brian and the PCC would have to make to the Lottery and other charities for funding for this work at Broomfield, they would have to show that the PCC and the Friends were already committing contributions to the costs of this work. He therefore proposed that we should commit to contributing £10,000 from the Friends funds. A vote was taken and this proposal was unanimously approved. Jan however pointed out that our rules dictate that the Committee is only allowed to spend up to 40% of our total funds in any one financial year, otherwise we have to invoke a special AGM to get permission from all the members to go over this limit. With the £6K already spent on Leeds church and the planned £10K for Broomfield tower stonework this totals £16K and 40% of our present funds is £15.2K. However it is very unlikely that the PCC will have completed all their fundraising and administration to undertake the Broomfield tower work before the end of our current financial year. Christine asked Judi to include this information about the £10K pledge in her letter to Brian and the PCC about the more detailed quotes.

There were also other smaller projects that needed attention at Broomfield eg the need for an extra wall fire at the choir end of the church and better lighting over the organ and floodlighting to enable safe approach to the church on dark evenings. These to be considered at the next meeting.

Action : JT

Any Other Business

Rev Hughes explained about his recent appointment as Vicar of Leeds and Broomfield churches. After much consultation it has been decided that Broomfield and Leeds will become part of one big new benefice, together with Bearsted, Thurnham, Otham, Langley, Boxley and Detling. We will still be individual parishes, as now, but we will be led by a clergy team, instead of each having a single vicar or rector.

The Team Rector will be Rev John Corbyn, present vicar of Bearsted and Thurnham; Rev Steve Hughes (presently vicar of Langley and Otham) will also now look after Leeds and Broomfield. Rev Melissa Carter (presently curate at Bearsted) will also be a member of the team. There are two vacancies to be filled in addition, and of course we will have the help of retired clergy such as Rev Robin Gill – who has given us invaluable support since Nigel retired - will still be available. Derek Bilbrough, our lay minister, will continue as lay minister for the new benefice, together with lay readers from the other parishes. There is also the appointment of a Missioner in the offing who will help cover the new developments at Langley, Kingswood and Downswood.

Mike reported that he had been to see Sir David Steel, CEO of Leeds Castle in July with a view to the Castle becoming a corporate member of the Friends. Sir David had said that regrettably the Castle would not be able to become a corporate member of the Friends but they would be very happy to help us but with support 'in kind' rather than in cash eg the recent help the Castle florists had given us at the Flower Festival. It was a very positive meeting.

Confidentiality – None.

Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 9 February 2017 at 7pm at Church Farmhouse, Broomfield.