

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on Saturday 15th March 2025 in Church House

Those present: Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke (HC), David Johnson (DJ), Paul Springett (PS), Richard Redman (RR), Susan Wales (SW), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Felicity John (FJ)

Also present for the safeguarding training was David Grant.

Apologies for Absence: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB) (at Diocesan synod), Amanda Macintosh (AM), Linda Mumford (LM), Louisa Hughes (LH).

The meeting began with the second unit of the basic **safeguarding** training. **Action:** **NE will circulate the relevant printout information** from the presentation. **To reiterate:** Any concerns should be passed on to the safeguarding officer (NE) who will then pass on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, who will then ensure that action has been taken.

Recognise – Respond – Record – Refer. (and follow up after the process)

The minutes of meeting held on 18.01.25 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record.

Matters arising: **GS** requested clarification on the charitable status of the Church. **PS** replied that any organisation with a turnover of more than £2000 will have to register as a charity from 2027. **GS** continued by giving feedback on the status of the new electoral role for Milborne Port and Milborne Wick, due April 8th. 2025. This must be updated once every 6 years. At the time of writing 58 people had registered including 8 that had not been on the electoral role previously. It was clarified that the final decision to incorporate Goathill with Milborne Port still has not had final approval, so Goathill is compiling a separate electoral role. **GS** has 50+ people still to follow up on. Those who have access to the list on the website are **GS**, **RSB**, **SW** and **NE** and the parish administrator Helen Soloman. **AS** had been asked if numbers registered had a bearing on the amount required of parish share, to which the answer is **NO** and **GS** will clarify this through the Pew News. **GS** then gave a detailed update on the status of the benefice website. From April 1st there will be 3 new parishes to include. Services will increase from 11 to 14 a month. Helen has had difficulty fitting everything into the format so Graham has liaised and explained some new ways to rearrange the information. A discussion is needed as to what is really needed to be included in pew news. **GS** emphasised the need for him to be given information about all upcoming activities as these are often not included on the website or in pew news so don't attract the attention they need. The Lectionary and the extra services are the main updates. **GS** has added three new pages to the website to accommodate the new parishes. He needs someone to look through the information and check it is correct **ACTION RBS or NE or SW. There is still a need for a second person to support GS should he not be able to do it for any reason.** **GS** has set up the website to make it easy for Helen to access and use. He would also like to see a website committee for the whole benefice. **GS** is to step down from the PCC at the APCM. **NE** thanked **GS** and praised

him for his outstanding work. She agreed that all parishes in the expanded benefice should be represented and agreed to take his ideas to the next benefice meeting. **Action: GS to email his detailed notes to NE.** PS echoed NE's praise and said how useful the website is when dealing with financial institutions. He suggested that **GS email each PCC monthly to ask for updates.**

Milborne Wick: There was no report.

Goathill: Detailed minutes of the meeting in January were circulated with the minutes of the last meeting. HC gave a brief verbal report on the last Goathill PCC meeting. There has been no update yet on the legal position of the amalgamation of Goathill with Milborne Port. The end of year accounts have been audited and show total credit of £420. The Quinquennial Report says that the roof of St. Peter's needs urgent repair at a likely cost of £17,500. Nick Bunt is looking into Church Grants.

Deanery Synod: There has not been a meeting since last reported.

Fundraising: AS gave 19th. July 2025 as the date of the summer fete.

Finance: PS gave an overview of the end-of-year accounts that have been audited and signed off by Alison Cooper of Charlton Accountancy. He has also liaised with the Diocese to ensure that he is carrying out his duties in the correct way. The total end-of-year cash fund was £212,210 which is approx. £1000 up on last year but will not keep pace with increasing parish share costs. GS asked about bank charges for cash and cheques. PS said that neither the Nat West nor the Coop Bank charge at the moment. The end-of-year report will be published for the upcoming APCM. NE proposed acceptance of the accounts, HC and DJ seconded, and all agreed.

Fabric: SW gave a run down of the current situation and a copy of **the report will be included with these minutes.** The gas boiler for church continues to need regular maintenance. Repairs will cost approximately £1200, or a new gas boiler would be £12,000. Ways of heating are being explored, for example, infra-red heating. SW has started a church roof drip log – although the weather has been relatively dry recently. It appears that the drainage from the rooves is not up to the job although there are probably other problems. David Grant has asked an independent chartered surveyor to report who will come on the 25th of March to look at the roof/heating/windows. A small group has been formed and called **Project St. John's**. It has had positive input from the Diocese and help with checklists re: documentation and repairs/maintenance. Liaison is starting with the whole village community and LM is compiling a questionnaire (based on one suggested by RSB). There is a thankyou tea arranged at the Clockspire for those who decorated Christmas Trees and fundraised. SW will give out the first public information about the extensive upkeep of the village's main historic building.

Health and Safety: There is now a log to record any incidents.

Letters: All letters from the Diocese and/or CofE received by FJ have been forwarded to PCC members as they have come in. There have been no other letters received.

AOB:

- RSB has agreed the accounts
- TJ reported on a mission idea for a community breakfast in Church House once a month now that the Tippling has closed. **That is now out for discussion.**
- RSB will attend the Parish Council meeting on April 1st.
- The mother and baby and toddler group to be set up by LH is still under discussion.
- Jane Jeans has made a request to be a Lay Worship leader here at Milborne Port. All agreed.
- Jonathon Robb, the outgoing head teacher of Milborne Port Primary School has suggested that each Year 6 pupil be given a Scripture Union booklet to help support them move on to Secondary School. The cost this year would be about £40. HC said it was the sort of thing the village Commonalty might be interested to provide, and he will raise it at the next meeting. ***NB Rona has been in touch with Harold about this – usually a joint donation by CofE and Reborn.**
- AH gave out the news that Clive Laughton's funeral would be a private family cremation on the morning of Friday 4th. April, followed by a 12 noon thanksgiving service in church, followed by the wake at the Village Hall.
- It was noted that the PCC meeting scheduled for 21st June is now on the same day as the Spirit of Milborne Port (SOMP) village fete and members of the fundraising committee would be setting up teas. It was proposed that the PCC meeting was shifted to 9am to help accommodate this.

Dates and times of coming 2025 meetings.

- Saturday 26th April APCM to be confirmed **2.30 pm**
- Saturday 21st June at **9am**
- Saturday 20th September **10am**
- Saturday November 15th. **10am**