

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council May 16th. 2026
held in Church House at 10.00am.**

Present: Rev. Rona Suart Bourne (RSB); Susan Wales (Church Warden) (SW); Paul Springett (Treasurer) (PS); Harold Clarke (HC); Mary Clothier (MC); Roger Cowley (RC); Nicky Edwards (BLC) (NE); David Griffiths (Wick) (DGr); David Grant (DG); Anthony Higgins (AH); Louisa Hughes (LH); Felicity John (secretary) (FJ); Trevor John (TJ); David Johnson (DJ); Richard Redman (RR); Anne Salkeld (AS); Trudy West (TW);

Apologies: None

Approval of the minutes from the meeting held Saturday 21st. February 2026: All agreed to be accurate and correct, proposed HC, seconded AH.

Matters Arising: Deanery Visitation Tuesday 9th. June, Milborne Port. TW, HC, RC are available. TW organising cakes and some help (Val Torode, Bridget Buckland, Anne Gaynor).

AS reminded the meeting that timings would be tight due to it landing on a Tuesday, the same day as Lunch Club.

Finance Update: PS was pleased to announce that the QR code on the leaflet that had been dropped to every house in the village had realised £3,900 (plus an extra £700 Gift Aid), and money was still coming in through that route.

Project St. John's had so far raised £49,215 (which includes Gift Aid and VAT recouped) and the spend thus far has been £19,000, (for e.g. lead, architect etc and this is just the beginning!). There are some pending costs, so the surplus is £24,500. DG explained that there will be an interim valuation within the next couple of weeks, when we will get a better over-view of further costs. He continued that the weather in April had been dry; that the contractor, Mike White, had been able to crack on with the work; that the quality of the work was very good and was being overseen by Peter Brown, Architect who made regular visits and ensured the quality of work done is first class. It was discovered that the water drip by the pulpit is probably due to cracked tiles rather than faulty leadwork. The timescale is being adhered to, and this phase should be completed by the beginning of June (subject to weather or unforeseen things). All lead has been "smart-watered" on the underside to prevent theft (or to trace should this occur).

PS continued that all funds were looking healthy. All fundraising is being poured into Project St. John's, which is meaning a monthly £200-£300 drift, but this will be corrected once funds are re-directed back into the General Fund. Donation Statements are available if you would like to ask – email Paul. paulspringett46@gmail.com

Goathill: Fundraising has been particularly successful. The Pet-the-Donkey Day raised £464, and the Duck Race was a phenomenal success, attended by lots of people and with good weather - £823. TW wished to send heartfelt thanks to all who attended and/or helped. The St Peter's balance in January was £7,500 and is now £11,000.

TW was worried about the state of the roof repairs and wanted someone to take it on. FJ had been in contact with Nick Bunt who said he had passed on the project to Hugh Hayward, Goathill has all it needs to get things going – the money, the contractor, the architect and the faculty. RSB suggested that TW get in touch with Hugh and also get local residents of Goathill to help her. SW pointed out that the architect should be the project manager. TW, supported by HC and AH, will get on to this.

RC reminded the PCC of the Ukulele fundraiser in Church House on Sunday May 31st.

There is also a wedding at Goathill later in the year.

It was noted that the Rogation Service had not been flagged to Helen to put into Pew News, onto the website, or into the magazine. SW apologised for the oversight and would ensure all services are flagged to Helen in future.

Milborne Wick: DGr reported that a new committee had been voted in at the recent AGM. The new Prowarden is Robert MacIntosh; Secretary Amanda MacIntosh; treasurer Catherine Edwards Smith; Chair David Griffiths. The usual congregation for Wick is 6-7 people who are very keen to keep things going. The main fundraiser will be the Annual August Bank Holiday Monday (30th.) Cream Tea with Ukulele Band accompaniment.

Rev.Rona: She started by saying that she is doing everything she can to ensure a smooth transition when she steps down. Once the vacancy is official the Diocese will not proceed with the next step unless everything is in order. With regards to Parish Share, Wick has a five-year agreement; Goathill has recently negotiated an agreement; Blackford has its own arrangement and Milborne Port had their in-line-with-inflation settlement ratified. Because NE has such a breadth of knowledge and experience, she has been designated a new title of "Benefice Liaison Coordinator" (BLC), as agreed at a meeting with RSB and SW. This will ensure that the process keeps moving and bring ALL the church wardens together towards "Project New Vicar". Our Benefice (compared to most) is amazing, with joint services, social gatherings etc which ensures we are a cohesive unit which holds together with kindness, good will and a common purpose. NE will continue in her role as Safeguarding Officer across the benefice for which she was gratefully thanked. On the Deanery "Safeguarding Dashboard", the statistics have to show that each benefice has to be a very minimum 20% towards goal. Milborne Port is at 94%. This is thanks again to NE.

RSB has also registered all our churches onto A ROCHA, an Eco-Church site. Goathill have already started their process towards their Bronze Award Status. The link is: <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

The Deanery Visitation Service, when the Archdeacon commissions Churchwardens for the following year, is Tuesday 9th. June (see Matters Arising Above). The service begins at 7.00pm. **SW/RSB to enquire if the Clockspire car park can be made available as the restaurant does not open on a Tuesday.** Along with those helping TW with the tables/teas etc from 5.45pm (see above), there will be bells and a choir to help make it a memorable and uplifting occasion.

Elections: Churchwarden – SW; Deputy wardens – RR, TJ, and Neil Briggs; BLC – NE; Sidespeople – Christine Porter, Jenny Hill, Caroline Woodall, Will Redman, Robin Bawtree, Peter Mumford, Margaret Barker, Anne Briggs and Gillian Topp (presently unwell). All the above were variously proposed and seconded by SW, TW, HC and AH. PS will continue in his role as Treasurer (p SW, s DG); and Felicity John will continue as Secretary (p MC s AH).

PS was thanked for the time-consuming but excellent job he does as Treasurer.

Deanery Synod: A recent meeting was difficult, with the speaker appearing to have very little empathy or understanding of the difficulties faced by multi-parishes and tiny churches. Those attending felt disheartened, disappointed and patronised.

Regardless, RC, HC and NE have put themselves forward to represent Milborne Port on the Deanery Synod. **FJ will inform Jane Jeanes with a letter to that effect.**

At this point PS and TW had prior commitments and left the meeting

Minutes from sub-committees: The extensive minutes of the Fund-Raising Committee were circulated with the papers for this meeting. There are many events coming up during the year – gardens, prosecco, fete, concerts, bbq etc and individuals are also offering their services. Eg Kevin Hardy has offered his time and expertise for helping people out with the money going to Project St Johns. There are discussions with the Spirit of Milborne Port (SOMP) for a Grand Ball next year with moneys divided between Project St. John's and St. Margaret's Hospice (in honour of Linda Mumford who worked tirelessly for the church and who used their services in the last stages of her life).

FJ asked PCC to think about the future of the Parish Magazine. It is the Church Magazine but – from the new year – there will need to be new distributor coordinators. For several years the Parish Council has wanted to make it a more secular publication. The consensus was that it should remain church based but there needs to be an urgent and serious consideration as to the logistics of distribution.

Fabric Update – Project St. John’s: SW wrote an updated report attached to the agenda sent out. Work is progressing as planned. A meeting took place on Wednesday 13th. May between Peter Brown (architect), Mike White (contractor), SW, DG and TJ. Several areas of lead on the tower roof need replacing and some raked stone tiles abutting the tower have been identified. Smart Water has been applied to every sheet of lead replaced. Spotlights and bulbs around the building will be replaced if not working.

The church will be professionally cleaned once the exterior and the electrics have been repaired (Jim Brookes will do this once the scaffolding has been removed). A new Henry has been donated with a flex long enough to ensure all corners of the building can be reached to be cleaned. Reidan Sannes, Marilyn Haskett, Liz Redman and Anne Briggs have cleaned the church occasionally. Reidan will be employed once the work mentioned above has been carried out. The boiler continues to function and has been left on low all winter. This has reduced costs and condensation. £3651.58 from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme has been recouped and received into the PCC’s bank account.

SW thanked DG and TJ for all their support and help.

Health and Safety/Safeguarding: NE commented on the increasing number of elderly and vulnerable people in the congregation. There has been an increase in online scams, which is a wider community concern too. Jo Batchelor (ringer) is going to preplace the First Aid kit in the belfry. AS will check the one in the choir vestry.

Letters: There were no letters.

AOB:

- MC reported that she has had several enquiries as to why there is no “thermometer” to visually show the progress of the fundraising. RSB pointed out that the fundraising was infinite and there would have to be 5 thermometers for all of the areas of work to be done. Some ideas were put forward. MC, LH, SW and Rachel Willets to liaise re: a possible banner, information points around the village advertising forthcoming events, facebook updates.
- Fundraising (extra to arranged committee plans)– AH is doing a sponsored walk around the perimeter of the benefice; Stuart Thomas is going to do a Mozart piano concert; the WI are organising a village breakfast for Saturday 25th. July.

Dates of Next Meetings (all Church House): **Saturday July 18th. 4pm. (instead of Memory Lane), Saturday 19th. September 10am. Saturday November 21st. 10am:**

The meeting ended at 11.30am with a prayer and grace.