

STAMFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Minutes: Monday 19th February 2018 @7.45pm in The Well.

1. Welcome & Devotions

Rev. Andy Fyall welcomed everybody to the meeting and opened the meeting with devotions. The reading was from St Pauls Letter to the Church in Ephesians. Three recent bereavements were highlighted and discussed.

2. Present

Rev. Andy Fyall, Chris Adams, Eddie Adams, Sarah Atwell-King, David Clarke, Luke Denley, Audrey Hensman, Roger Hensman, George Hetherington, Jan Hetherington, Margaret Hewardine, Janet Howitt, Ian Husbands, Julia Husbands, Roger Ing, Godfrey Jones, Pauline Jones, Conan Lewis, Helen Little, Clive Marshall, Bill Newbery, Michael Pryke, Nina Rawlins, Corinna Selby, Annette Turner, Jenny Whatley, Anne Wiltshire, John Cameron (Sec.)

Apologies:

Beth Hodgson, Ted Murray, Maz Roberts, Beryl Teasdale

3. The Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on November 29th, 2017 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was reviewed. The official copy, which was then signed by the Minister as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

The introduction of the media screens was discussed. One of the groups which use the church had questioned if it was possible to advertise their group on them. The committee suggested that appropriate messages could be displayed free of charge and asked the Stewards to define this more fully.

The request for installation of screens (Stadfas) was discussed. Ian Husbands was asked to meet with them to discuss their needs in more detail.

An update on the provision of an inclusive access at the front of the church was provided (See property report for further details). The design had been modified to have it more closely conform with the theme of the area. People were encouraged to provide comments through the planning portal. A question was raised regarding how the Church was working to keep the neighbours updated on the plans and any progress. The meeting was informed that the neighbours had been consulted initially & Rev. Andy Fyall agreed to listen and consult with neighbours. A further question was raised regarding the possibility to have the access in a different area of the church and still meet the wishes of the donor funding the project. It was suggested that the property committee were in the best position to investigate this.

The committee were informed that Ted Murray had returned to active service as a Steward.

The meeting was informed that a notice of planning application had been received. This related to 9 Barn Hill.

5. Correspondence

- a) The meeting was informed of the letters issued by Rev. Andy Fyall since the last meeting.
- b) a letter of condolence is to be sent to Elaine Proctor – Proposed by Nina Rawlins

6. Church Life and Ministry

6.1 Stewards Report

Nina Rawlins used the opportunity to highlight that Maz Roberts had requested to withdraw as an active Steward. It was agreed to send a letter of greeting to her, recognising her service. Nina Rawlins proposed that Charlotte Davis & John Cameron be accepted as Stewards. This was seconded by Roger Ing and accepted by all.

6.2 Worship

The report was accepted into record.

6.3 Children and Young People

The report was accepted into record. Ian Husbands noted the reduced numbers attending these activities. Rev. Andy Fyall asked the meeting to consider how we can encourage families and young people to attend more consistently.

6.4 Mission Projects Group

Roger Ing highlighted an issue regarding the potential to run out of potential events. The meeting was informed that 2 events had been cancelled due to external forces. Finally, the donation from the Second Helpings group was noted.

The meeting discussed the local project. It was suggested that the Sensory Garden project at New College Stamford be selected but it was agreed that more information was needed before a final decision could be made. This will be presented at the next Church Council meeting, where approval will be sought.

6.5 Second Helpings

The report was received into the record.

A proposal for the installation of a community fridge was discussed. This would potentially be placed opposite the storeroom door. The fridge would attempt to address the issue whereby donations can only be received on specific days. It would also allow the community to be serviced throughout the week and allow the organisation to make better use of the food that is offered.

Questions were raised regarding the positioning of the fridge, whether people could leave goods as well as take & when the gate would need to be closed. Concerns were raised about security.

Rev. Andy Fyall proposed (Godfrey Jones Seconded) that Second Helpings be permitted to investigate the installation of the community fridge. For: 24, Against: 2, Abstentions: 0

The potential operation of Second Helpings every Sunday was discussed. The intent was to provide a greater service to those in need. It was also noted that this may have the advantage of bringing in families and people who are not currently attending worship.

Questions were raised regarding how this would impact neighbours & other users of the halls. Also, the timing of the sessions was questioned. The need to keep Sunday special was raised. The church policy is currently not to let space on a Sunday but it was acknowledged that some users have the ability to use the facilities on a Sunday. Concerns were raised regarding the need to ensure that the Church did not feel pushed out.

Rev. Andy Fyall proposed (Michael Pryke Seconded) that Second Helpings be permitted to investigate the potential to open on Sunday. For: 24, Against: 1, Abstentions: 1

6.6 Update on the Well

The report was received into the record.

Thanks, were expressed for the efforts of those who assist in the work of the Well.

6.7 Youth Outreach Worker Report

The report was received into the record.

The meeting was informed that the opening of the Shack had been moved from the beginning of March to the beginning of May and a request was made for volunteers. Rev. Andy Fyall reported that while a lease had not been signed, there was permission to the facility, even without a lease.

6.8 Pastoral Committee

The report was received into the record.

7. Churches Together in Stamford

A number of activities & initiatives were highlighted:

- Christian Aid lunches for Lent.
- Good Friday public event
- A proposed Mind-space / Wellbeing café
- Praying on the street had been moved to St Michaels
- The foodbank was reported to be doing well

8. Property Matters

8.1 General

The report was received into the record.

The need for a replacement Health & Safety Officer was highlighted.

The meeting was informed that the insurance premiums had stayed at the same level as last year but a historical event could cause this to increase in the future.

The location of cleaning materials was discussed and the meeting was informed that efforts were being made to finalise this matter.

8.2 Lettings

The need to improve the locking up procedure was highlighted.

9. Finance (see report and statement)

The meeting was informed that the Church should be able to absorb the small loss of £1,678 listed in the 2017 figures. There was also a discussion round the trend in the weekly collections.

The Charitable status of the Church was discussed. A letter and form are to be sent out to members of the meeting. It was noted that if people chose not to sign these, they would lose their voting rights at meetings. It was also noted that Tax rebates would become Church responsibilities rather than sitting with the central Methodist Church.

10. Circuit Matters (see report)

The upcoming event in Deeping was highlighted, as was the Barn Dance event, which is to be held in May.

11. AOB.

11.1

ECO Church: The meeting was informed about the ECO Church program. This aims to assess Churches on the building / land / community engagement / lifestyle. On completion of the survey, each Church is awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold rating.

Michael Pryke proposed (George Hetherington Seconded) that the Church should complete the assessment and gain an ECO Church rating. For: 26, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0

11.2

The inability to easily recycle the single use cups was discussed and the meeting was asked to search for creative ways to address this issue. Volunteers were requested to segregate the cups from other waste so that they could be sent for reprocessing.

Permission was obtained (unanimously) to do whatever was required to eliminate the environmental impact of these cups.

11.3

Permission was obtained (unanimously) to further the development of a lay witness mission.

A question was raised regarding how the Church reached out to the community, and in particular if new housing developments were an area of focus. Rev Andy Fyall noted that Stamford Churches did target these areas a time back.

Additional

Rev. Andy Fyall brought to the attention of the meeting a covenant that had been agreed between the Anglican and Methodist Churches, which promoted them working together. He specifically raised a recent proposal that would allow each Church to accept the other Churches Ordinations and the meeting was asked to remember this in their prayers.

The events around the '*I, Daniel Blake*' screening was promoted by George Hetherington.

12. The meeting was closed in prayer

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday June 6th at 7.45pm in The Well.