**The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate**

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Held via Zoom on Wednesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS - Chaired by Peter Higgins**

Welcome by Bradley Smith (Churchwarden of Barnham), who opened the meeting with prayers.

1. **Election of Chairperson:** Peter Higgins was proposed by Sarah Nicholl and seconded by Lady Kenya Tatton-Brown

**2. Minutes**: The Minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting held on 30 April 2019 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**: None

**4. Election of Churchwardens**: The following people had offered to stand:

*St. Mary’s Aldingbourne*: Julian Buxton (proposed by Barbara Coombes and seconded by Beth Johnson)

*St Mary’s Barnham*: Steven Maple (proposed by Susie Holmes and seconded by Rosny Richardson), Bradley Smith (proposed by Sarah Tripp and seconded by Steven Maple)

*St George’s Eastergate*: Gary Courtnadge (proposed by Caterina Brown and seconded by Mike Purdue), Richard Brown (proposed by Maggie Courtnadge and seconded by Tony Foot)

All the above were duly elected and a vote of thanks was given to them.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – Chaired by Bradley Smith**

**1. Apologies:** Sarah Tripp, Jill Armstead, Jacky Reeves, Mary Camerer Cuss

**2. Minutes**: The Minutes of the last APCM held on 30 April 2019, were proposed by Lesley Bryant, seconded by Gillian Angrave, and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**3.** **Matters arising from those Minutes (not on the agenda of this meeting)**: None.

**4. Audited statement of financial activities for the year ending December 2019:** Neill Pearson outlined the salient points of the accounts, and gave a summary. In December 2018 the Parish had had a deficit of £22K, which was reduced to £1,100 in December 2019, after Neill had campaigned for more giving. This year, due to the Covid pandemic, Neill envisaged a deficit of about £10K. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Neill, seconded by Andrew Dunlop and agreed by all. As Neill was standing down as Treasurer, Bradley thanked him for serving over 15 years and said the Parish owed him an enormous debt of gratitude. Gary Courtnadge would take a gift from the Parish to him the following day.

A copy of the Accounts is attached to these Minutes.

Andrew Dunlop had agreed to take over as Treasurer and would be formally elected at the next PCC meeting.

**5. Election of Parochial Church Councillors:**

The list of PCC members is attached. Additional members were:

Andrew Dunlop – Proposed by Gary Courtnadge, Seconded by Mike Purdue

Gillian Angrave – Proposed by Julian Buxton, Seconded by Barbara Coombes

Sarah Tripp – Proposed by Steven Maple, Seconded by Gary Courtnadge

Peter Higgins – Proposed by Richard Brown, Seconded by Gary Courtnadge

**6.** **Election of Deanery Synod Members:**

In addition to Lesley Bryant, whose term of office expires in 2022, the following were elected:

Gilliam Lambourn – Proposed by Gary Courtnadge, Seconded by Richard Brown

Steven Maple (3-year term elapsed) – Proposed by Sarah Tripp, Seconded by Lesley Bryant

(Bradley attends as a Diocesan and General Synod Rep.)

**7. Election of Sidespersons:**

The following persons were nominated as Sidespersons and agreed en bloc:

*Aldingbourne* – Ann Fosbury, Laurence Fosbury, Beth Johnson, Chris Scawen, Linda Bell, Sarah Nichol, David Nichol, Shirley Renton Rose, Norman Knight, Sharon Knight

*Barnham* – None Elected

*Eastergate –* Andy Butler, Mandy Foot, Tony Foot, Jean Hartley, Gillian Lambourn, Louise Mitchell, Neil Mitchell, Liz Purdue, Mike Purdue, Lynne Stephens, Robin Thelwel, John Woodhead, Ross Woodhead

Thanks were extended to the sidespersons for their very important ministry of welcoming within the church.

**8. Electoral Roll:**

**T**he total number of persons on the Roll was reported as 158 (151 last year).

Bradley reported that this had been revised in 2019 and would be due to revision again in 2025 (after 6 years)

**9. Annual Report for the proceedings of the Council and of the Church generally:**

Copy attached.

**10. Appointment of Accountant and Independent Examiner to the Council for the year to 31 March 2021:**

Thanks were expressed to Kreston Reeves LLP for the preparation and examination of the PCC accounts for the year. They were proposed by Neill Pearson, seconded by Gill Lambourn and appointed again for the forthcoming year. As Treasurer elect, Andrew Dunlop felt that is would be appropriate to disclose that he had been a partner in Kreston Reeves retiring some 5 years ago.

**11. Churchwardens’ Reports on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches:**

The Churchwardens’ Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were extended to them all.

**12. Deanery Synod Report:**

Steven Maple reported that the Synod had not met this year.

**13.**. **Reports from Organisations:**

Reports from the Sunday Seekers, Youth Group, Play & Pray, Messy Church, Nippers and Slippers, Parish News Committee and Mothers Union had been circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were extended to all who had prepared them.

**14. Any Other Business**:

Bradley thanked Neill, Vera and Roger, the musicians, readers and servers and fund-raisers for all their had work during the year, but above all he said we must thank the clergy – Rev Sheila, Fr Tony and Fr Graham for doing so much during the Interregnum.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace.