Parochial Church Council Minutes
Wednesday 23rd September 2026

PRESENT: Graham Hamilton, Dawn Hamilton, Shirley Codner(sec), Roy Pitchford(treasurer), Michael Codner, Peter Chesterman, Karen Chesterman, Roy White, , Sally Simmons, Jack Knightly, Steve Matheson, Simon Merrett, Richard Thomas, Stuart Pyle,
APOLOGIES: Mark Alexander, Annie Cook.

Opening Prayer:
Graham opened with a reading form 2 Corinthians chapter 6 and prayer .
Graham commented that the Church appears to be under spiritual attack , noting the significance of General Synod Elections beginning on Monday. The National Week of prayer (10th -18th October) flagged as an opportunity for corporate prayer,Graham proposed moving the monthly prayer meeting to 14th in line with this and possibly add some extra prayer sessions .

2. **Declaration of conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda**
Possible for Jack Knightly at item 10.(Youth worker update)
3. **Minutes of previous PCC meeting and standing committee notes .**
Michael Codner proposed Minutes be accepted as correct . Seconded Roy White.
Standing Committee notes accepted as correct.

4.**Matters arising from minutes.** Graham reported that a final report of the Serious Incident will be submitted to the Diocese and Charity Commission by 5 October.

5. **Vicars Report**
1. Departures from church and PCC. Graham reported several families have recently left the church for a variety of personal reasons .
The Nelson family are believed to have left but Graham has not received answer to his recent email .
The Hamilton Family have moved back to Plymouth.
Robert and Katie Law are moving to the Montecute area to be closer to their son in Bristol.
The Wilgar-Jones family have moved to Bristol as Greg begins his next phase of training .
2. Resignations from PCC.
Katie Law has resigned from PCC due to relocation
Andrew Barnes and Charlie Beauchamp have both resigned from the PCC.
A card of thanks was signed for Katie in recognition of her hard work on the bell tower project.
The Question of PCC Size and Governance was raised. The current PCC numbers are swollen by having 3 Deanery and three Diocesan Synod members. This may change following the General Synod elections . Graham will research the CRR rules on minimum numbers of PCC, as it was commented by Steve Matheson that it is difficult for the PCC to function in some areas at the present size.
There is a feeling that the PCC is often/ always dealing with urgent matters and crisis and the same routine or regular issues are never discussed or addressed. Graham proposed another PCC away day for January/February 2027 to allow for forward planning discussion and prayer.
The PCC is in favour of the 'Working party' model , where the PCC sets out broad vision and working parties discuss and research detail and report back .

Graham commented that the current service pattern may need to be reviewed in early 2027, Mark Alexander will be stepping back from the 5pm service and the 11am congregation is shrinking. This will be a matter for discussion at the Away day and in early 2027.

4. **Safeguarding update:**
Serena's report previously circulated to PCC. DBS and Safeguarding training of volunteers is up to date at this point .

5. **Health and Safety.**
Accident and incident book is up to date.
The need for a health and safety officer to be appointed was raised , and the production of a File containing risk assessments and policies relevant to PPT buildings and facilities to be available to those using our premises. This is not to negate the need for activity based risk assessments by those responsible for activities.

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6**. Treasurers report**

Report circulated prior to meeting. Roy invited questions from the floor. There were none.
Roy reported giving and generosity of the congregation is outstanding .
Options around Common fund payment will be presented to PCC in November for discussion and decision.
Dawn Hamilton asked who were the bank signatories in the case of Treasurer not being able to sign . Roy informed us that Himself , Mike Limb and Jill Hosford are at present bank signatories. Graham and Roy Pitchford are signatories on the CCLA account.

7. **Youth Worker Update**

There have been no serious applications .This leaves us with 3 possible options.

1. Continue advertising nationally
2. Raise the salary offer (in consultation with main donors)
3. Pursue local expressions of interest. 2 from within church and one external . External interest has qualifications for working with young people but no theological Qualification, and would be prepared to do PGP course .

Those expressing interest have been invited to visit Wise guys and 9.30 Services.
Questions posed included :

1.review of 'full time' need against part time (maybe as starting point)
2. Need for Rosie's vision for family children and youth work to be incorporated in discussion
3. Spree and Tiverton Camps to be a key part of new role .

A working party made up of Graham , Rosie , Sally Simmons and Michael Codner will schedule to meet prior to further discussion at the next PCC. Graham will investigate the costs. time commitment and options for theological youth training through SWYM

8. **Bell tower project**

The bell tower working party have researched concerns around the use of Nicholson Engineering Ltd as the Contractor for this project and feel positive about the outcome of enquiries . Simon Merrett has visited Nicholsons and is at present waiting for a further phone call.

There was discussion about using an Escrow account for making payments to Nicholsons , Simon will find out if this would also cover the deposit. The need to appoint a new project manager was highlighted and will be addressed at the next PCC Meeting.
The PCC voted to proceed with Nicholsons as the preferred contractor, and authorised Stuart and Simon to write a letter of instruction to Nicholsons, which will function as the contract between the PCC and Nicholsons. This will be circulated to the PCC for approval before sending to Nicholsons.

9. **Fabric update**:

The PCC approved a quote of £4000.00 from High Line builders for the repair of the roof around the church room Velux windows, to be completed during October Half-term. Shirley to lease with High Line builders. The Marquee will be taken down immediately after the Harvest lunch. Old Canvas, now badly worn, will be donated to Heatree activity Center , Simon Plumley to remove. New canvas to be purchased by Spring 2027 at cost of £1000.00 which will be in 2027 budget. Vestry conversion for 12+ Sunday group to be managed by parents of group at minimum expense.

10.**Christmas program**

Christmas service and event dates were confirmed :

28th Nov Town Market
3rd Dec. Light for a Life
6th Dec. Christingle
10th Dec. Cantamus Concert
13th Dec. Hennock Carol Service
20th Dec. PPT Carol service

Christmas eve Midnight and Christmas morning Services will be dependent on sufficient volunteers. Shirley will canvas volunteers via rota list email. Christmas leaflets to be ready by 28th November

11. **Standing Committee and PCC dates**

Standing Committee Thursday 22nd October
PCC Wednesday 25th November.

Graham closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing