

Church Meeting Minutes - July 27th 2017.

Chair. Revd. Andrew Sellwood.

Devotions. Matthew Smith

27 members present.
11 apologies received.

Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed as correct.

Matters arising.

Worthing cluster. Valerie Cooper read out a letter from the Moderator regarding cluster plans. The letter will be included with copy of minutes. Andrew is due to meet with the moderator in two weeks.

Defibrillator. Costing £1,500 in total. £750 for the defibrillator and £750 for the special housing. Wilfred Rhodes is going to approach the Community Chest Fund for a grant of £1,000 toward this. The meeting voted for approval to purchase a defibrillator, 21 members for, 2 members against.

Synod together. October. Preparations and volunteers are in place for this event.

T.F.G. Julia has now returned to Germany. We welcome Marielle Springer who arrives on 26th August and will be staying with Rosina Bayley for the first month until Valerie and Alan Cooper return from holiday.

Pastoral news. Hilary Redman. The meeting shared news of the fellowship and upheld in prayer those with special needs at this time.

Agenda items.

1. **Elders Election.** Ryan Thomas and Geoffrey Redman were approved by the meeting to act as Tellers. All 5 nominees [Matthew Smith, Wilfred Rhodes, Mary Redman, Bobby Hitchin and Caroline Hibbs] were elected with high votes. The induction/ordination service will be arranged in due course. Thanks were given to all involved. The meeting gave permission for the voting slips to be destroyed. Thanks were also given to Ryan Thomas and Vic Joy who are standing down after 6 years of service.
2. **Ratification of church secretary.** The meeting gave its consent for Valerie Cooper to continue in this role. Rosina Bayley and Chris Howie will cover this role whilst Valerie is on holiday from 31st August to 2nd. October.
3. **Annual/perennial jobs.** No one requested to stand down from any role.
4. **Ministers Time.** Andrew had nothing to share.
5. **Piano.** The meeting discussed the Hall piano. To replace this will cost £3,798 and can be funded out of the organ fund in the first instance with this money being put aside to build up the organ fund over the next 4-5 years. Replacing the piano will ensure the Hall can continue to be a viable Let bringing in around £4.300 P.A. We can also consider being a piano exam centre this will potentially increase revenue. The meeting voted in favour of purchasing a new piano and Geoffrey Redman agreed to order it.

Group Reports.

Finance. Matthew Smith. First ½ year budget is looking satisfactory. £3,000 surplus currently thanks to Gift Aid. Unexpected spending on property out of the fabric budget, including lighting. Also work required at

the Manse with replacement fence. Quotes are being requested. Synod to fund this. Work to clear the Manse garden at a cost of £300. This part of the work is not covered by Manse maintenance.

Church sanctuary cleaning. This is now being carried out by the same company who clean the halls. At an additional cost of £20 per week. Thanks were given to all those who have given their time to clean the sanctuary over the years.

Maintenance of Ministry Allocation. Approval gained from the Meeting to pay £42,144 next year which continues to be a good contribution.

Utilities. The finance group ratified the decision to an agreed fixed rate for Gas with SSE over the next 4 years. Electricity. Elders and finance group have given the go ahead for a 3 years fixed rate with EDF. There is an 8% increase in the cost of Electricity.

Outreach Group. No report.

Property group. Ryan Thomas. Advance notice was given for a Property work day in September. This will involve cleaning, painting and gardening in readiness for the Synod day in October.

World Church and Mission. No report.

C.T.G Rosina Bayley. Ecumenical service at St. Mary's on 17th September in the evening. Saints and Sinners in October. Donations requested for a Lucky dip. Carole Culliss is working with St Mary's to organise the cake stall.

Letting news. Nothing to report.

Notices and correspondence. Valerie.

Information given about a Worship Workshop on 9th August.

Andy Twilley is holding a seminar on 16th August at Crawley URC. A poster is available at the back of the church.

Southern Synod are producing a newsletter which will go on the notice board when received.

A letter has been received from Church Tourism Management to introduce themselves. The National Churches Trust have a website called Explore Churches and enquired if Goring URC would like to be included. The meeting agreed to be part of the website and the information is passed to the Outreach Group.

Minutes from the Surrey/Sussex Synod Area meeting were provided by Hilary Redman and will be included in the minutes folder.

The meeting ended with the sharing of the Grace.

Next meeting September 28th.