

Thornthwaite, Braithwaite and Newlands Parochial Parish Council
Minutes of TBN PCC Meeting 6th October 1.30pm, St Herbert's Church Hall

Date/ Time of Next PCC Meeting: Thursday 4th November 1.30pm

Attendees: Andy Murphie, Don Thoburn, Anne Thoburn, Roy Butcher, Hannah Roberts, Robert Canham

Apologies: Anthony Simpson, Alison Biggs, Mary Wardle

1.0 Prayer

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting agreed (08.09.21)

3.0 Update from AM

- Update regarding appointment of foundation Governor for St Herbert's Primary School. Proposed candidate Sarah Miller (previous head of St Herbert's Keswick). Motion proposed by AM and seconded by RB. Motion approved.
- Update regarding drainage survey at St Mary's Church. Proposed Percolation studies (to site location for soak-away) are costed at approximately £450 (+ VAT) and full drainage survey is costed at approximately £1300 (+ VAT). Motion proposed by AM and seconded by DT. Motion approved.
- Update from Diocese. Any proposed future works to drainage must be submitted to faculty for approval. AM has obtained a faculty form for completion. Likely to be considered at next Faculty meeting on 21st October, now awaiting feedback.

4.0 Finance

- Future financial strategy options explained to members of PCC by Treasurer (RB).
- Option One: Cost cutting exercise, to minimise outgoings to bare minimum including withholding parish offer. However, at present there is a projected deficit of £8000 this financial year with general fund running into negative balance by March/April 2021. It is duly noted that income is not forecast to improve substantially over coming months and may even diminish.
- Option Two: Renegotiate current terms for outstanding loan held with Diocese. This option would reduce outgoings by approximately £6000 a year, however, the debt would be recalculated over an extended period of a further 5 years, still representing a significant burden on the general fund going forward.
- Option Three: Re-negotiate current loan and consolidate funds to offer provision for future works. This option would allow the loan to be underwritten by The JAP Trust and effectively amalgamates outstanding debts whilst providing a surplus income to initiate future renovation works at St Mary's Church. RB explained that there are risks involved with this option as The PCC is solely reliant on The Trust remaining financially buoyant and robust in future years. It also involves The PCC taking on further debt which would be a burden for future members of The PCC.

- Option Four: Financial Restructure. This option involves rationalising and proportioning costs and income within the Parish. Parishioners will be able to designate their donations more specifically within the parish. It is hoped that this option may encourage more parishioners to take part in regular giving and thereby improve income. It is noted that any giving will need to acknowledge the running costs which are attributable to the individual churches as well as the overall parish offering. The PCC will remain responsible for ensuring that the future needs and financial burden of all churches within the parish are met in an effective way.
- It is noted that any option will be subject to further consideration once full financial clarity for 2021 has been obtained, (first 6 months' accounts for 2021 still have outstanding queries which have not been solved). Currently, the transfer of mandates for banks has not been completed so full financial transparency is unlikely to be achieved until this has been actioned.
- Members of The PCC were in agreement that option four remained the preferred future financial strategy.

5.0 Meeting closed with a Prayer.