

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Greatham Parish Council Old Church Advisory Committee held at St John the Baptist Church on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at 3.30pm

Present Chairman A Bridgman (AB), Theresa Whelan (TW), Carole Rudd (CR), Anne Ballard (ACB), Anna Dale-Harris, Boopie Cope (BC), Peter Merz (PM) and Sarah Bettin (SB) (The Parish Council Clerk).

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from David Redman and David Rudd.

3. Minutes of the Old Church Sub Committee meeting on 15th March 2017

The minutes of the meeting of 15th March 2017 were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the Old Church Sub Committee meeting on 15th March 2017

There is going to be a site meeting with Mr Paul from the Manor to discuss the siting of the shed.

5. Alabaster Tomb update.

ACB reported that she had met with David Self, a roofer and a mason to discuss the damp in the Chancel which will affect grant applications. Johnny Garlick had given contact details for companies that could complete a damp report on the building. ADH reported that the Leche Trust don't want to put the grant application forward until the survey has been completed so this means that the grant application will not be considered until October and the damp report will be required by September. TW reported that a rejection letter has been received from William Morris but they have confirmed that it will be reconsidered following the damp report. ACB went on to comment that having spoken to Johnny Garlick who had looked at Torquil's report that looking over the 15 years that SPAB have been working on the church there has been no degeneration in the tomb due to damp. JG had looked at the quinquennial review photos to see where the "tide marks" were. He has suggested testing the salts to see where the damp is coming from. JG's opinion was that due to the ventilation in the roof and the two holes in the walls he felt that this was adequate ventilation and it is probably not necessary to do anything to the door. Everyone was in agreement that nothing would now be done to the door. The problem is water puddling where the Nave and Chancel meet. JG's proposed remedial action is to take the soil away from the base of the church so it is 150mm below the internal chancel ground level. This would be done at the next maintenance day. ADH commented that when the church has been opened for a day at the end of the day the floor is always still damp right in the middle. It was agreed that ACB would go back to David Watt to progress getting the damp report done. **Action ACB**

TW reported that she has been in communication with JG and Torquil and that Torquil's opinion is to get any work done to rectify the damp and then start work on the tomb in spring of 2018.

It was agreed to continue opening the church as much as possible and a discussion followed regarding the keys. It was agreed that AB and CR would share a key and BC and ADH would share the other key. PM to give the Manor's key to AB. Action PM

ADH commented that she would be keen to be involved in drafting the new grant application for William Morris. ADH reported on the Tomb Decoration Day and donations of £212.40 were received.

The threefold leaflet was discussed and the possibility of sending it out with the next newsletter or the village magazine. The Parish Council would need to agree to the cost of producing the leaflet. The clerk to get a quote for producing the leaflet. Action SB

TW suggested that the newspaper articles are put up on the noticeboard.

6. Event Planning for 2017.

The summer event was discussed in detail with the following outcomes and actions:-

Music - BC to talk to Edith about music.

Tickets - ADH to design the ticket and circulate ASAP

Raffle/Tombola - A tombola would be quicker than a raffle CR to ask Debbie Hedicker if she would organise.

Food - ACB will be organising people to do the food

Pimms – volunteer needed to serve. Glasses from Waitrose

Gazebo – SB to lend hers.

Tables from church.

A sub-committee meeting will be held on 22nd June 2017 at ACB's house.

Publicity – ADH to organise

7. Financial Report – to review current finances.

The Clerk queried the balance of funds as the amount in the Old Church bank account did not match what was minuted at the last meeting. There is an amount in the current account that should be transferred to the Old Church account. Clerk to check and put to the next Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that all cheques that are received as donations AB will record the details of.

A request had been received from L'abri for £25 a year to cover the cost of the water. Mr Paul also has an invoice for the installation of the tap.

8. Storage Facilities

The location of the shed was discussed at length and also why a shed was needed. It was felt by the sub-committee that they should be consulted on the size and type of shed. Following the meeting some members of the sub-committee were going to visit the site and look at the best place for the location of the shed so this could be recommended to the Parish Council.

ADH reported that the site used to be designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. (SINK) but unfortunately this designation has been removed. ADH will find out what has to be done to get redesignated.

9. Maintenance.

ADH gave an update on the grass cutting. It was agreed that CR would talk to DRudd and ACB would talk to DRed about lowering the soil levels at the next working party under their supervision. Action ACB/CR

10. AOB:

The SPAB list should be put on the next agenda for consideration. Clerk to action. Action SB

11. Date of next meeting – the next meeting will be held on 16th August 2017 at 7.30pm in the Church of St John the Baptist.

12. Close of meeting – the meeting closed at 5.30pm