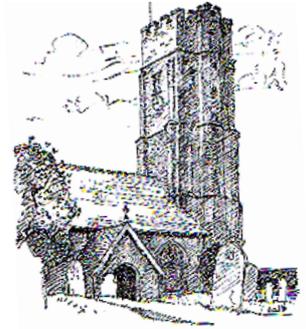


Friends of St. Peter's



Friends of St Peters Annual General Meeting
Saturday 30 April 2016 in The Green Dragon, Stoke Fleming

MINUTES

Those Present:

- Committee: John Harrow (Chairman), Rick Kemp (Treasurer), Anne Bailey (Secretary), Rokie Shiffner
- Other members and visitors: 14

1. Welcome

JH welcomed everyone to the meeting; he thanked members for coming and for their continuing support over the last 12 months.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Peter Hunkin, Joan & Trevor Mason, Graham Fice, Juliet Lambert, Cheryl Kamstra, Caroline Bailey, Nick & Gwen Teage, Jan Lloyd-Edwards, Sophie Rae.

3. Minutes of Last AGM (21 Apr 15)

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed: Mike Dodsworth, Seconded: Jenny Farmer.

Matters arising:

- (a) New weather vane was installed in Sep 15 – action complete.
- (b) Conservation of stained glass windows – scope of project yet to be defined, action continuing (covered later in meeting).
- (c) External auditor to be appointed – action complete.
- (d) Interest bearing accounts – RK has investigated this but the committee had agreed that the need to tie up funds for a lengthy period, combined with low interest rates, meant that this was not worth pursuing.

4. Chairman's Report

JH introduced the members of the committee and commented that FOSP had had a very successful year. RK would provide details under Treasurer's report, but in summary receipts during 2015-16 were of the order of £9,000. In particular he thanked Loam Rangers for their generous donation of £1,000 towards the FOSP funds. At one point during the year the balance stood at about £22,000, but JH commented that this money had been collected for spending on the fabric of the church, not to accumulate wealth.

The 2016 AGM was the first at which FOSP could report significant expenditure:

- Manufacture and fitting of a replacement weather vane (£1,500)
- First instalment payment for the renovation of the clock (£7,000)

The second instalment for the clock (£8,000) has been paid from the 2016-17 financial year. JH reported that, at the recent PCC meeting, Peter Barker and John Dietz had expressed their gratitude to FOSP for their very valuable help and contribution towards the huge undertaking of the Tower Project, and also for replacing the weather vane.

The clock has now been taken away to the Crediton workshop of the Cumbria Clock Company and its return (fully overhauled, repainted and re-gilded) is expected in August, when the rest of the tower project work is complete.

JH said that all members should be proud and satisfied that FOSP has been able to support these projects. For the future, he mentioned the renovation of the church windows, raised at the last AGM and for which a preliminary quote of £11,000 had been received, but said that progress would be deferred until the tower project was complete. Further discussion on future projects would take place later in the meeting.

He expressed thanks to David Sharp for undertaking an audit of the accounts.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statement was circulated and is attached; it shows a current balance at 31 March 2016 of some £14,800. RK observed that this was a similar figure to last year's balance despite the fact that nearly £9,000 had been paid out.

Some 37 members have paid their subscriptions by Standing Order this year, up from 34 the previous year. This is much the preferred method of collecting subscriptions. Other members pay by regular or one-off cheques. It would be advantageous to increase the membership over the coming year. However, the major contribution to the funds has come from several major donations, both personal and from other local organisations. He recorded FOSP's gratitude for these.

In answer to a question from the floor about the Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the Tower Fund, JH explained the relationship between the Tower Fund – set up specifically for the tower renovation project, which would be complete within the current 12 months, and FOSP – who had contributed some of the funds for the tower project for the renovation of the clock and will continue to support the fabric of the church after the tower project is complete.

There were no further questions about the accounts, which were then approved, proposed by Rokie Shiffner, seconded by Sue Tweed.

6. Committee Nominations/Election

AB explained that the Constitution allowed for 5 committee members who could be re-elected if they were prepared to continue. All said they were so prepared and therefore the existing committee was re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Robin Shiffner, seconded by Suzie Dodsworth, and carried unanimously.

JH went on to explain that, whilst there was no desire to expand the committee, a need was seen to co-opt other members, perhaps for an agreed period of time, to bring special skills to investigate and progress particular development projects. He thanked Sophie Rae (not present at this meeting) for agreeing to advise on attracting younger members of the community, and on the use of social networking. Other needs identified were as follows:

- Attracting new members – JH explained how he had gone about starting the membership 6 years ago, by writing to addresses from the electoral roll and following up with a personal visit. This has been very successful but also time-consuming, and he would welcome someone to take on this role, with support and help from the rest of the committee, as this could impact significantly on the size of the membership.
- Technology – FOSP currently has a website and a Facebook presence, maintained by AB. She would welcome assistance in developing this, and other social media outlets, as a means of attracting membership and raising money. (Post Meeting Note: Suzie Dodsworth has volunteered to take on this role and AB will liaise with her.)
- External Fundraising – Someone would be welcome to look into the possibility of obtaining grants or other funds from charitable organisations. This would require research into possible sources of funding, and raising applications. Mike Simons said he had done this for Friends of the Flavel and Dartmouth Museum and, although not able to take a lead, he was happy to advise. He commented that normally such organisations would require recipients to be registered with the Charities Commission. FOSP is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid purposes, but will investigate the implications of full

Charity Commission registration. Normally specific projects need to be identified when bidding to these charitable organisations.

7. Fundraising Plans for 2016/17

RS outlined the plans for the coming year:

- a. "Picnic in the Park" – a Village event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, Shakespeare's 400th anniversary and Midsummer's day, to take place in Sanders garden on the evening of Sunday 19 June. Grateful thanks were due to Mary and Geoffrey Newman for the use of their garden and marquee. It would be a "bring your own picnic" event with some entertainment and the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent views; tickets at £5 (£1 for children) and proceeds would go to village charities. RS asked members for additional ideas to enhance this event.
- b. For the autumn she is planning a talk by Annie Norton on Nepal; she was there at the time of the earthquake 2 years ago and knows the country well. Details of this have yet to be finalised.
- c. In the summer there was likely to be a low-key open gardens event at Westholme.

RS asked for any other ideas for new, enjoyable events to be forwarded to her, and commented that next spring might be an opportunity for another Village Concert.

8. Any Other Business

- The floor was invited to propose ideas for projects to support.
 - Mike Dodsworth asked about renovation of the organ. John Dietz explained that the organ was last overhauled in the 1960s and it was due another. 3-4 years ago he had obtained a quote for about £40,000, but the work was not done then because of other priorities.
 - The renovation of the windows was discussed. John Dietz explained that 4 windows needed repair. The glass is supported by rusting iron bars embedded in soft and crumbling "Ham Stone" stonework. The glass does not need replacing but it might need to be removed to carry out the other work. It would be a specialist job.
 - RS mentioned the pulpit, which is becoming unstable.
 - Peter Bailey suggested a replacement flagpole, similar to the new weathervane, to include a new substantial bracket to strengthen the stonework of the parapet.

JH thanked members for their ideas. It was necessary to create a working list of projects, which the membership would need to prioritise. This would be particularly relevant when seeking funds external organisations.

- On behalf of the PCC, Peter Barker thanked FOSP for their support and enthusiasm. He commented that it is wonderful to have such an historic building, but it presents tremendous problems to look after. The PCC is very grateful.

There being no other business, JH thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting with their suggestions. (Post Meeting Note: On behalf of FOSP, the committee thanked Peter Crowther of the Green Dragon for providing the venue, and coffee and biscuits for the meeting.)

Treasurer's Report Friends of St Peter's Financial Year 2015 – 2016

| Year ending 31st March 2016 | | | 2014-15 |
|---|----------|----------------------|----------------|
| Receipts | £ | £ | £ |
| Subscriptions | | | |
| Standing Orders | 2,260.00 | | |
| One off cheques | 559.00 | | |
| Total | | 2,819.00 | |
| Donations | | | |
| One off (personal) | 3,000.00 | | |
| Loam Rangers | 1,000.00 | | |
| Green Dragon Christmas Fair | 200.00 | | |
| Shows Unlimited | 100.00 | | |
| SODS | 100.00 | | |
| Total | | 4,400.00 | |
| Gift Aid | | 742.34 | |
| Events | | | |
| Kingsmen | 550.00 | | |
| Hort & Sport stall | 81.00 | | |
| Misc. | 378.00 | | |
| Total | | 1,009.00 | |
| Total receipts in fiscal year | | 8,970.34 | 7,305.25 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Clock refurbishment (1 st payment) | 7,000.00 | | |
| Weathervane (full payment) | 1,509.60 | | |
| Fee + refreshments for Kingsmen | 200.69 | | |
| Misc. | 285.00 | | |
| Total Expenditure in fiscal year | | 8,995.29 | 652.00 |
| Total Financial Surplus in Fiscal | | -24.95 | 6,653.25 |
| Bank Balance b/f from 2014-2015 | | 14,761.15 | 8,107.90 |
| Balance as of 31st March 2016 | | (l) 14,736.20 | 14,761.15 |

(l) £119.87 also held in cash in addition to this bank account total.

Rick Kemp
Treasurer