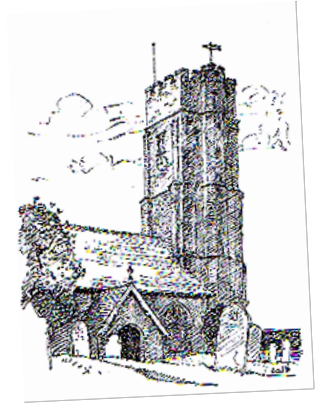


# Friends of St. Peter's



## Friends of St Peter's Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1 May 2021, by Zoom

### MINUTES

#### Those Present:

- Committee: Rokie Shiffner (RS) - Chairman Tim Hailstone (TH) Treasurer, Anne Bailey (AB) – Secretary, Suzie Dodsworth (SD), Kevin Sumner (KS), David Holmes (DH) – Co-opted member.
- Other members and others: 13

#### 1. Welcome

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Joan & Trevor Mason, Hilary Speed, Josie Hainsworth, Rosemary Scadding, David & Rosemary Boutle, Alison Shaw, Gary & Teri Larsen, Eric Pengelly, Jenny Farmer.

#### 3. Minutes of Last AGM (21 Nov 20)

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed: Nicko Franks, Seconded: Diana Knight. Mary Newman had asked if the drainage of the churchyard paths could be considered. She has since discussed this with John Dietz and it had been agreed that this was not as much an issue as first thought.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated in advance and RS summarised the principal issues. She also mentioned the prospective photographic competition being considered as a fundraising event for this year. This would be covered in more detail later in the meeting

#### 5. Treasurer's report

The Financial Statement was circulated beforehand; it shows a balance at 31 March 2021 of £11,380. TH pointed out that the date of the final balance, shown as "31 March 2020" was an error. This will be corrected in the records.

Owing to Covid restrictions, TH has not yet finalised a handover of the books with Rick Kemp, but this is in progress. He observed that the main income during the year had been from subscriptions, but the Zoom talks has been a great success and made up for the absence of other events. The statement showed a good balance at the start of the year and, although a substantial payment had been made for the work on the windows, there is still a healthy balance at the end. The Gift Aid contribution has yet to be received; this should be approximately £700, meaning an expected total for 2020-21 of around £12,000.

The financial profile of the organisation over the last 10 year has shown a steady increase in

subscriptions (apart from one year of lower receipts); receipts from events and donations are very variable depending on circumstances. The only outgoings, apart from payments for projects, are direct costs of organising events. The amount paid for administration is negligible.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Rick Kemp, seconded by Mary Newman and approved unanimously.

## **6. Trustees Nominations/ Election**

The situation regarding the Trustees/Committee members had been circulated prior to the meeting. RS explained that AB did not wish to stand for re-election at this AGM, but that DH had been co-opted onto the committee and had volunteered to take over as Secretary. He was proposed by Sue Tweed, seconded by Kevin Sumner and duly elected. The other Trustees were re-elected en bloc, proposed by Sue Tweed, seconded by Rick Kemp.

## **7. Projects**

RS talked through her report on projects which has been circulated beforehand. In particular she explained the following:

- Replacement of roof tiles was now complete, and the scaffolding has been removed. No report has yet been received about the state of the roof generally, but it is possible this might not be as bad as first thought.
- The guttering was in a bad state of repair, and had been for some time. RS commented that this was not a very exciting project, but could be quite expensive.
- The project to add value to the church as a venue of benefit to the village was still under active consideration, but planning had been curtailed by Covid restrictions. The objectives being considered would be to upgrade the WC to provide disabled facilities, to re-arrange the kitchen and to partition the interior of the church to provide a more suitable space for smaller gatherings, whilst improving the efficiency of the heating and reducing costs.
- Much interest had been expressed in the idea of “re-wilding” parts of the churchyard, in common with other parishes in the South Hams and elsewhere. RS thanked those who had contributed links to further information, especially Graham Fice and John Belli. It is likely that SHDC and Stoke Fleming Parish Council will form a working group to progress these ideas, and the PCC and FOSP are interested in taking part. In answer to various comments submitted before the meeting, it is well understood that any plans need to include the costs of maintaining the churchyard in a tidy and accessible state.

RS went on to speak about the issue of the flagpole, which is in a bad state of repair and deemed unsafe to be used on a regular basis, especially in strong winds. AB stated that there are about 12 occasions per year suitable for flying a flag on church buildings, but this had not been done recently because of the safety issue. Exceptionally, the Union Flag had been flown at half-mast (in light winds) following the death of HRH Prince Philip, and this had been appreciated. A quote of £4,000 + VAT was received 2 years ago, but further research on alternatives and comparative quotes should be undertaken. TH commented that this should be well within FOSP’s means. Sue Tweed proposed that this idea should be pursued; a vote was taken and the motion carried.

## **8. Fundraising**

DH outlined plans to hold a photographic competition as the next fundraising event for the autumn of 2021. This would be open to everyone in the Parish and would be limited to mobile phone cameras, with just three classes: “Close Up”, “View” and “Quirky”, which could be taken anywhere across the Parish not just the village. If feasible, it was proposed to open the voting to everyone within the Parish, perhaps with a professional photographer being the final arbiter, and prizes, still to be finalised, might include enlarged and framed copies of the winning pictures. It was agreed that visitors to the area would be welcome to submit entries. A charge of £5 for up to 5 entries is planned.

Selected photos could be used to produce a small desk calendar for sale, which would be on an “order

only” basis for which we hope we might find a sponsor. It might also be possible to produce a book of photographs of the village, which could have a longer-term sale value. If enough entries were received, an exhibition in the church could be combined with an “open day” with teas, raffle and other activities for further fundraising. RS confirmed that the “Hort & Sport” organisers were happy with FOSP’s proposal.

RS said that more Zoom talks were being planned for early 2022, following the success of the recent series of talks. She asked for any other fundraising suggestions to be sent to her.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Some comments had been received in advance, which had been covered during the meeting. In addition:

- a. Mary Newman said she would be happy to work on the “re-wilding” of the churchyard and has some ideas. She asked to be kept informed. RS will send information received to date. A discussion group will be formed to take this forward.
- b. Peter Barker expressed thanks, on behalf of the PCC, for the work undertaken by FOSP, especially the renovation of the windows which has been much appreciated.
- c. Rosemary Minshall reminded the meeting of the PCC’s “Virtual Big Cream Tea” event taking place on Saturday 8 May, and asked for any orders to be placed today if possible.
- d. RS thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting, and expressed particular thanks to AB for 10 years as secretary, and to Rick Kemp for continuing to look after the accounts until he was able to undertake a handover to TH.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled in late April / early May 2022.

AB  
3 May 21