

WOODBRIDGE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 15th November 2017 at Lea Church Room at 7.30 pm.

Present: Rev Steve Wilkinson, Chair; Basil Miles, Richard Wood, Great Somerford; Tony Yates, Dauntsey; Mark Edwards Lea; Roger Sherhod, Stephen Tuck, Brinkworth; Robert Gawthrop, Little Somerford and David Briggs, Garsdon;

1. **Opening prayer** was led by Steve Wilkinson.
2. **Apologies** were received from, Velma Oxley, Mike Graham, Dave Smith, John Riley, Michael Bromley Gardner, Cec Smith, Margaret Lewis, and Jane Briggs
3. **Minutes of last meeting** 20th September 2017 were agreed.
4. **Matters arising not covered on agenda** – None
5. **Benefice Update** –
 - a. **WT THRIVE** – Steve reported on a new mission initiative for the North Wilts Deanery which took place recently. It was attended by the six groupings in the deanery, with people selected by incumbents. The event, facilitated by CPAS, took place over two days and was particularly focussed on Multi Parish Rural Benefices. All who took part from our own group enjoyed the event which aims to promote leadership and mission. Steve will be explaining more about this to PCCs and will be looking at “why people offer themselves for service and why are we here?”. Details of this initiative will be distributed with these minutes for wider circulation. Further THRIVE events are planned for the future. **Action Point 1. SW/Sec**
 - b. **Reports from Garsdon and Little Somerford Parishes** –
 - i. **Garsdon** – David reported that representatives from Wilts Council had visited the church recently and had agreed in principle the scheme to create a small extension to incorporate a less-abled toilet and a storage area together with a small servery inside church. A Planning Application and Faculty Application were now being prepared for submission. An Archdeacon’s Certificate had also been obtained to install a second notice board inside the porch.
 - ii. **Little Somerford** – Robert reported that planning was well advanced for the Christmas Fayre and that a recent Coffee Morning raised £140 for Macmillan Nurses. Discussions were also taking place with Voneus regarding the use of the church tower for possible broadband receiver. The village suffers from very poor reception. If this proceeds the church would receive 20% of all revenues generated in the village.
 - c. **WT Safeguarding** – Heather was thanked for her report which was noted. Consideration of a Safer Recruitment Policy would be carried forward to the next meeting. Meanwhile Steve would discuss with Heather. **Action Point 2 SW/Sec**
 - d. **WT Living Churchyards and Churchyard Regulations** – The wording of the previously circulated documents were approved subject to additional clauses relating to paraphernalia and lights. The revised documents to be circulated. **Action Point 3 SW/Sec**
 - e. **WT 2018 Group Harvest Supper** – there was broad support for a suggestion that Harvest Festivals to take place on the same day and for us all to join together for a Harvest Supper the night before or Lunch on the Sunday, with catering being provided. Matter referred to PCCs for further consideration of preferences, including any aspects that might cause a problem. **Action Point 4 PCC Secretaries to agenda please**

6. **Ministry Team –**

- a. **Autumn Rota 2017 and Spring 2018 Rota** – Updated versions were tabled and accepted. Ministers still needed to be allocated to a few services but Steve was dealing with these.

7. **Administration –**

- a. **WT Parish Share Requests** – the updated pledges for 2018 are as follows:

Brinkworth	Pledged	£8,600	Requested	£9,140
Dauntsey		£2,760		£5,750
Garsdon		£9,430		£9,430
Great Somerford		£15,350		£15,350
Lea		£24,500		£26,180
Little Somerford	Hope to give	£7,440		£7,440
Totals		£68,080		£73,290

Steve noted that pledges so far made fall slightly short of the costs of ministry, a figure of £69,000. He encouraged parishes to review their pledges in order to at least cover this figure. Others also spoke about the need for missional generosity in acknowledgment of the blessings that we all receive.

- b. **WT Parish Giving Scheme** – David reported that both “trial parishes” had launched and that encouraging numbers of donors were continuing to sign up for this worthwhile scheme. The benefits being accelerated Gift Aid recovery and much reduced administrative work. David Briggs offered to explain the scheme and the benefits should any parish wish to explore it
- c. **WT Group Insurance Policies** – It was noted that insurance premiums absorb a significant proportion of our income. Aviva have offered to provide quotations for each parish that wishes to explore the possibility of reduced premiums. It was stated that in one parish the saving amounted to some 30%. In addition we would qualify for a “group discount” depending on the number of parishes that take up the offer. This offer was thought to be a good idea. The Secretary will contact parish representatives to seek to necessary information in order to move this forward. **Action Point 4 Sec**

8. **Treasurers Report –**

WT Present Financial Position –Michael had circulated the accounts for the ten months to 31st October and these were accepted. In order to try and spread the costs to parishes more evenly over the year it was suggested and agreed that we ask the Treasurer to make the quarterly provisions for larger items and charge them to parishes within the usual quarterly invoices.

9. **Items for future meetings –**

- a. **Parish News / Communications**
b. **Woodbridge Group Distribution List**
c. **Parishes Sound Systems**
d. **H R Policies**

10. **Date of next meeting – Wednesday 17th January 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

11. **Dates of meetings for 2018 - 17/1, NOW 7/3, NOT 21/3, 16/5, 18/7, 19/9, 21/11.**

12. **AGM: Sunday 27th May after the Group Holy Communion.**

13. **Grace – the meeting closed at 9.25 pm and Grace was said.**

WT = WORKING TOGETHER

APPENDIX – ACTION POINTS

- 1. THRIVE – details to be circulated with minutes – SW/Sec**
- 2. Safeguarding – Safer Recruitment Policy - SW/HL**
- 3. Living Churchyards – finalise policies – SW**
- 4. 2018 Group Harvest Festival – PCC Secretaries**
- 5. Group Insurance – WGC Reps/Sec**
- 6. Carried forward - Morning Prayer Services – Ministry Team**