**Winscombe and Sandford Parochial Church Council**

Minutes of Meeting held on July 1st 2025

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| Item |  | Action |
| 1. | Derrick welcomed all present and Jacqui led us in an opening prayer. |  |
| Attendees | Derrick Claridge,(chair) Bridget Andrews, Dorothy Baldwin, Jo Claridge, Beth Cutmore, Sarah Gunn, Jacqui Keir-Bucknall, Pauline Nixon, Douglas Ogram, Jan Welling |  |
| 2.1 | **Apologies for absence**  Simon Crew, Martin Hagen, Alison Haynes.  Absent- Angela Morris |  |
| 2.2 | **Approval of minutes of PCC Meeting held on June 3rd 2025.**  There were three amendments suggested by SG which were accepted and the amended minutes were proposed by BC and seconded by JC. Approved unanimously. |  |
| 2.3 | **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising. |  |
| 2.4 | **Correspondence**  BA had received the request for the auditing of Parish Officers. This was returned with the inclusion of SC and BA. |  |
| 3. | **Vacancy Update** The Churchwardens met with Archdeacon Charlie and were successful in persuading him to re-advertise immediately, in late June and early July. The closing date is now 23 July, short listing on 29th July, visits on the 16th Sept with interviews on 17th Sept. |  |
| 4. | **Safeguarding Report** No safeguarding concerns have been reported. 43 clergy and volunteers have up to date DBS checks.  Two policies were reviewed, Safer Recruitment and The Recruitment of Ex Offenders. These were approved and re-dated. Proposed JC seconded SG Approved unanimously. |  |
| 5. | **Finance Report.** The Finance Committee met on 31st May. SG reported that, as at 31st May 2025, St James has a deficit of -£11, 560. All Saints has a deficit of -£8,500, which reflects the monies spent on the Church Room which was funded from the Building Fund Account.  The Finance Committee are concerned that because Expenditure is exceeding Income, St James could have a YE deficit of -£15,000, well above the -£11,000 agreed by the PCC when setting the 2025 Budget in December 2024. The Parish share is a large part of outgoings and on behalf of the Finance Committee, SG made the following proposal, which was seconded by DC;  “The Finance Committee proposes that, due to the level of income not increasing in line with expenditure, the monthly Parish Share payment to the Diocese should be reduced with immediate effect from £4,625.00 to £4;000. This, combined with strict adherence to keeping within budget on all other expenditure, should allow St James’s to keep within the Budget deficit agreed for 2025.”  The PCC agreed unanimously to accept the proposal.  This means that by the end of the year we will have paid 80% of the Parish share requested. The financial situation is very worrying. In four years time we will have drastically reduced our reserves, if giving remains at the current level.  A leaflet,” Parish Giving Scheme “was given out to all present, to be discussed at the Sept PCC meeting. |  |
| 6. | **Pastoral Team Report**. The team met on 30th May. No problems were highlighted. Licences have been received for LPAs and LWAs. Some of the team attended the Thanksgiving service for Lay ministry in Wells Cathedral on 14th June. Next meeting 1st August. |  |
| 7. | **Churches Together Report.** At the meeting held last week a new chair was appointed - Fiona Kelly from the Lynch Chapel. The team are planning for next year’s Lent Course and the Christmas leaflet. |  |
| 8. | **Deanery Synod Report** Dorothy Baldwin kindly agreed to collate the questionnaires and she will bring the result to the next meeting for approval. (Please can those not present give their completed questionnaires to her asap) Deanery Synod members are to be re-elected at the APCM in 2026. | DB |
| 9. | **All Saints Refurbishment.**  The kitchen fitting is now complete. Praise was given to everyone involved for an excellent project carried out nearly within budget. It has exceeded expectations.  A letter of thanks will be sent to the cubs and scouts who have helped both churches recently. | BA |
| 10. | **The Saturday Market** A meeting was held with Tina Blunsden. She has agreed to be the contact with traders, to create the table layout, to advertise and act as Duty Officer 4 times a year.  It is hoped to set up a team, (largely from St James Events Team) who can open, clear up, put up banners and cater on occasions. This will bring in income and provide social interaction.  It was proposed to take this on for an initial six month period. Proposed JC Seconded BC Carried unanimously. |  |
| 11. | **Churchyard Lighting**. The lighting is finished. It works and looks good, kindly paid for by the Friends of St James. |  |
| 12 | **Update on Leylandii**. There are a few more visits planned to check the cracks, before we go back to the solicitor.  **AOB**  Denise Blake, the Archdeacon’s Secretary, is retiring from her position. She has always been most helpful and supportive to our church. It was proposed that a small gift of £10.00 be given from our parish. Proposed BC, seconded SG Unanimous vote in favour.  A Church Centre Management Team document was given out. It was proposed that we accept an increase in fees for the hall hire from Sept. Proposed JC Seconded SG Passed.  The churchwardens have had a meeting with Caroline Deakin, the Area Dean. She has been advising re our services. The current quantity of services is untenable and when the Q4 is planned, the service pattern may change.  Bridget is retiring as PCC secretary after the Sept 9th Meeting. She was gratefully thanked for all her hard work during her time as secretary.  A Home Group Leaders meeting will be arranged with a view to recruiting in late Sept.  The Meeting finished at 3.50 pm.  Next Meeting; Tuesday 9th Sept (not first week as normal) |  |
|  | Signed. |  |
|  | Dated. |  |