



**Minutes of the
Meeting of the LCC of Hyde
Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.30pm at
Hyde Church**

***This LCC exists to work together joyfully in step with God's Spirit to fulfil his mission
in this place, at this time.***

Present; Martin Ings, Jan Butcher, Heather Clark, Julie Francis, Ann Edwards, Canon Michael Anderson, Sheilah Collis, Robert Herridge, Jeremy Houghton-Brown, Julian Sims, Carrie Darke.

Welcome from Chair

Opening Prayer led by MA

1. Apologies for absence – Rev. Kate Wilson, Heather Brook, Peter Chew, Alan Moore.
2. Minutes of the LCC meeting of 25th July and of the special meeting of 17th August.
 - Accuracy – Minutes accepted and signed.
 - Review of action points and matters arising from 25th July.
 - a.i. Car Park MI reported that having now gone through all official channels he is in a position to put the work out to tender.
 - a.ii. God's Acre – Covered in last meeting.
 - a.iii. Community Service Hall booking for Oct 15th – To be preceded by a cooked breakfast. Breakfast team headed by MI. Collection will be for Christian Aid and it is hoped that they may send a speaker. If not a film will be used.
 - a.iv. Purchase of first aid kits. – A second kit has been purchased which will be placed in the Church Centre.
 - Update from the last PCC meeting. A new advert for the position of incumbent for the AVC has been placed in the Church Times at a cost of £1050, to be split equally between the four LCAs.

Community

3. Simplification Process: What worked well and what could have worked better if it had been done differently.

The members of the LCC, although committed to the idea of simplification, felt unanimously that the process of unification at a managerial level had been rushed through far too quickly without any consideration for the necessary process of the unification of the hearts and minds of four very diverse church communities. This was further compounded by the early departure of our incumbent, who had been a driving force behind the process and in whom many had placed their faith for ongoing leadership as simplification bedded in. The result has been a confusing managerial structure resulting in huge responsibility and many more meetings for our Churchwardens and PCC members. The financial model we are left with is poorly structured, creating much confusion and a massive work load for the LCC treasurers. There was no single PCC treasurer in post at the point of unification. It is seen as one of the outstanding mistakes in the simplification process that the financial model was not grown first, under a treasurer with the necessary professional knowledge to tackle each problem in turn thereby having a fully working financial model as one parish before the final legal steps to unification were taken. There were also expressions of frustration that as we enter our third cycle of advertising for a replacement incumbent, (a process that is obviously being impacted by the underlying lack of unity in a unified parish) that so very little support has been forthcoming from the diocese. The LCC recognises that there are serious, ongoing financial issues facing the parish, that must be addressed to enable us to achieve security for the future and fulfil our mission goals.

In short what could have been done better :

- **Longer lead in time. We feel it was rushed despite the requests for more time.**
- **Better management structure, especially for the finances.**
- **Retention of the incumbent in post for the bedding in process.**
- **More and faster support from Winchester when such an obviously challenging set of circumstances came together, i.e. a newly formed parish with no incumbent.**

What worked well : It was recognised that much of the amazing work that we achieved as a parish during the Covid lockdown period, with streamed services, virtual coffee mornings, Saturday conversations and online children's activities etc. would not have happened without the purchase of new technical equipment made possible by the Benefice of the Future Funding.

Moving forward, the LCC of Hyde would be very supportive of a combined meeting of the LCCs of the parish to consider the outcomes from this review, before taking any proposals to the PCC.

4. AVCM update. Next Jumble Sale on Saturday 30th September.
5. Christmas Fair. – Plans are developing. Jan would be delighted to hear about more ideas for stalls.

Congregation

6. Mission Working Party update. – JH-B under the guidance of John Towler, has been working on a Mission Statement for the parish that could be presented to all the LCAs for consideration. He presented an initial draft. It was felt that it needed further condensing down to as few words as possible for maximum impact.
7. Stride and Hike. – Due to the pressures of time we did not participate in this initiative this year, but will reconsider next time.
8. Picnics Together. – Very popular and well received and seen to have been a social lifeline to some of the families that attended. Activities in the future would be welcomed.
9. Upcoming Services.
Baptism at Hyde – Sunday 17th September.
Hyde Harvest Festival Sunday 8th October.
Bible Sunday due on Sunday 29th October. This is a United Service at Breamore.
Community Service in Hyde Community Hall – Sunday 15th October.
Service for the Departed on Sunday 5th November.
Remembrance at the Ibsley War Memorial at 11am on Saturday 11th November.
Remembrance Sunday Service at Hyde at 10.50am on Sunday 12th November.

Church Building/ Churchyard.

10. Churchyard work-party – September 23rd 10-12.
RH reported that a Bronze DofE participant would like to do her volunteering by tidying in the churchyard for an hour on Sunday afternoons throughout October, November and December. The LCC were very pleased to support her request to do this but felt that as she is a minor she should be accompanied by a trusted adult whilst she is on the premises as a safeguarding precaution. CD volunteered to be her church contact should the volunteering go ahead.
RH to report back to the family on this matter.
11. Finance, including Accounts. – The four residual endowments have been sold and the money is in the deposit account where it currently earns 4.8% interest. The Link Magazine continues to run at a profit and lettings of the hall are currently up. The concern is that the number of units of electricity being used in the hall has gone up markedly. HC is looking into why this might be.
12. AOB (*Should be notified to the Chair beforehand. If not, the Chair will determine whether it is of sufficient urgency to be included here*)
MT – Thanks to Jane for her kind donation of a wheelchair to Hyde Church. – agreed. MT also reported that the wheelchair needed some maintenance work doing on it.
MI agreed to look at the wheelchair for maintenance.

MT & MI – Choice of Hymns – MT requested that the hymns chosen for upcoming services be supplied to her well in advance to enable planning for choir practises.

MI expressed the importance of getting a good balance of old and new hymns in our repertoire at services to appeal to all tastes as well as to ensure regular use of both our organ and piano on Sundays. He explained that the organ had suffered from the effects of damp in the past and again recently, which could easily develop into very costly repair work. The best and easiest remedy for this is regular use. He also informed us that Margarite Harris has offered to play for services free of charge on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

JB – The Pre-school shed. – The pre-school wish to replace the shed near to the Church due to age, but reposition the old shed in the lower corner of the Churchyard which they use as a Forest Schools area. Concern was expressed about how this might look and that it would possibly require a faculty. There is a cross reference of opinion on the LCC towards welcoming children into a restricted area of the churchyard for play and learning opportunities at limited times and under the strict supervision of the Pre-school staff, and the sanctity of the churchyard as a place of peace and respect. The LCC have had cause for concern in the past regarding keeping this area tidy and respectful when out of use and appreciate that this may be an attempt to tidy things away better. The overall feeling was that more information was required regarding the sighting of the shed before a final decision could be made and if necessary a faculty application may need to be sort.

JB to explain the complications to the Pre-school staff and seek clarity.

The Pre-school also had concerns about some loose posts around the edge of the play area near to the Church. As this had been erected by the husband of the previous Manager of the Pre-school it was felt that any replacement fence posts were the responsibility of the Pre-school not the Church.

In addition the Pre-school felt that some maintenance pruning work needed to be carried out on a large beech tree on the boundary of the church grounds. This tree is known to have a preservation order on it and permission would have to be sort for any work to be carried out on it. It was proposed that Will Cobb be asked to come and look at it and make a recommendation.

MI to ask Will Cobb to look at the beech tree.

JH-B - Confirmation of Heather's role on the PCC now that she is the Treasurer. Is she also a Hyde rep. It was confirmed that HC's role on the PCC is both as treasurer and as a rep. for Hyde. This maintains the balance of four LCAs each with four representatives on the PCC.

As the time was now 21.40 it was agreed to leave the remaining AOB points until the next meeting.

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed by saying The Grace together.