

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH
MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING 28TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Chair: Vivien Sargeant

26 members attending

Venue: Meeting held via Zoom and in the church building due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Apologies: were advised and recorded

The meeting opened with a reading from Psalm 27 reminding us that God is our light and salvation and holds all things in his hands, therefore we need not fear for the future, but trust in Him.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2021 were agreed as a correct record. To be signed at a later date when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

PRACTICAL

Secretarial Matters

CBC Constitution: All members had received a copy of the revised Constitution for perusal and comment. All were reminded of the Special Church meeting to discuss this to be held on 19th October 2020. If there are further questions these should be addressed to Colin Barrable, Paul Graham or one of the deacons prior to the meeting.

Election of Officers: Due to Covid restrictions the election of officers at the AGM had been delayed. However it was now possible to do this and the following posts were to be voted upon

- Vivien Sargeant - Secretary
- Colin Barrable – Treasurer
- John Baillie & Elvena Dew – co-opted Deacons

Those in church and those on Zoom were able to vote for all these posts by secret ballot in line with the Constitution.

All nominees were duly elected.

Wearing of Masks in Church: Guidance from the BU states that it is up to each church to make an individual decision based on local circumstances. Discussion followed emphasising that this was to protect others rather than the individual; that air flow was important but would be more difficult as the weather became colder; that Covid-19 was still present in the community and affecting considerable numbers of people; some individuals found mask wearing uncomfortable or restricting; and that Lateral Flow Testing is to be encouraged to protect the whole community.

A suggestion was made that we could have areas of the church segregated for mask or non-mask wearers as was the case in some other places.

Coffee time mingling was a personal choice and therefore masks could be worn according to individual choice.

It was agreed that if even one person felt excluded from coming to church then we should be respectful and continue to wear masks for the present. The situation will be kept under review

Finance

Report attached.

In CB's absence PG reported that offerings continued to be down on previous totals in non-Covid' times and we should continue to be prudent with our spending.

Kitchen: Electrician's bill outstanding as is receipt of the remaining £2500 grant from Havebury Housing. This leaves CBC with a balance of approx. £17,500 specifically earmarked for improvements to the building/facilities. The diaconate had agreed that we look to replacing the gas heaters in the back hall and LHG room with more environmentally friendly and effective alternatives.

Thanks are recorded to CB for all his hard work in applying for grants; oversight of the spending on the various projects; and his ability to 'say Yes' to requests.

Maintenance

Updates: JB reported that the AV system update was complete with excellent screens and coverage, as was the reinstallation of the replacement heaters.

Kitchen: now up and running although some minor issues need to be resolved.

The diaconate would be undertaking a room-by-room audit to identify areas of improvement required with approximate costs and would report back to the membership when this had been completed.

Thanks were recorded to John Baillie, Steve Radford and all the team for their hard work and time in delivering an excellent new catering facility.

MINISTRY

So What Next? Follow-up on last meeting discussions

Morning Services: At present we are continuing with both in-church and Zoom participation. With a reduction in available preachers and continuing Covid-19 restrictions we need to consider the way forward. Currently PG has nine Sundays when he is not required to preach but this is a minimum and any other alternative preachers are to be welcomed. **Anyone who feels the Lord's leading to participate in any way to develop their gifts is encouraged to discuss this with PG.**

John Baillie suggested a monthly 'all Age' service to encourage children and young people to become more involved as Sunday Club is only operating fortnightly at present. It was recognised that this requires a considerable amount of organisation.

Ideas or volunteers to PG/diaconate.

How to Pray: Studies for discussion and reflection are starting at various times and locations and all those interested are being invited to participate.

Psalm 23 material: to revisit at a later date.

2 Chronicles 7:14: Elsa Day fed back to the meeting about this initiative to date. She stated that this was a call to prayer relevant to the whole church. In the prayer meetings held to date she felt that they provided an opportunity to spend time together before God; that we should come before him in expectation; that it was important to come and not be afraid to sit in silence and listen to what he is saying to us as individuals and as a church community; and importantly to share and receive encouragement from God and from each other.

FELLOWSHIP

Pastoral Care: Sue Cumber and the family were remembered specifically at this time. PG also reminded us that we should not only pray for each other but look after ourselves as well.

All present were invited to bring before God in prayer all those known to us who need his presence with them at this time.

Jacqui Taylor and John Regan had spoken with PG and the diaconate about setting up a Bereavement Support Group. They had compiled a prospective list of 15 names who were to be invited to a social meeting on 28th October 2021 to explore further how to provide support and sharing with each other. The meeting fully supported the initiative and prayers were offered for the venture.

Ride & Stride: 23 people had visited CBC and thanks were recorded to all who were involved in welcoming them.

Harvest Lunch: All those present had enjoyed the food and the opportunity to share with each other over a communal meal. The serving system had worked well and Janet Shaw suggested its continuing use in the future. Thanks were recorded to Susan King, Jacqui Jennings and the team for their efforts and hard work.

AOB

Stephanie Taylor was welcomed to her first church meeting as a member of CBC.

The meeting closed with prayer at 20.50 hours.

Special Church Meeting: 19th October 2021 in CBC/Zoom to discuss the revised Constitution

Next Church Meeting: 30th November 2021 in CBC/Zoom at 7.30pm

Signed:

Date: