

FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH - CIO

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH-CIO, HIGH HALSTOW. HELD IN THE CHURCH ON 24TH MAY, 2021.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Meredith, Bob Prichard, Maggie Ryan, Carol Cocup, Ray Collins, June Collins, Ann Judges, Chris Peek, Ken Reynolds, Chris Cook, Sandra Melhuish.

APLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Marian Davies, Jane Cook, Rev Steven Gwilt, Di Welch, Tamsin Stowers.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY, 2020.

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance.

There being no amendments, it was proposed to accept the minutes.

Proposed by Ann Judges

Seconded by Chris Peek.

They were then signed by Mike Meredith (Chairman) as a record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES THAT ARE NOT SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS.

Mike Meredith (Chairman) made a statement regarding his recent communication to members reminding them of the scarecrow festival.

He apologised to all members that he inadvertently forgot to set the 'blind copy' option before sending the communication, thus recipients could see other members e-mail addresses.

This is not the agreed FOSM procedure and he would like to ask all members to ignore / delete these addresses.

Mike Meredith then gave an update on the Charity Commission Proposals that were discussed at the last AGM.

At the time of the last AGM the Charity Commission had not approved our application. They initially rejected our application, on the grounds that as it was associated with a place of worship it should include 'Christian Principles' as part of its remit.

The Trustees decided to appeal their decision, without amending our application. On consideration of our appeal the Charity Commission then agreed our application. Great news and as you can see from the heading CIO is now included in our title.

This successful application took much time and effort and we should thank all those involved.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

The chairman then summarised his annual report that had already been circulated in advance.

The various Covid lockdowns and restrictions meant we had to cancel or reduce most planned events.

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One shining light was the Scarecrow festival, which was not only very well received, but also raised more money than the previous year!

This festival reminds the village of the FOSM and its objectives, it also helps bring the village together and not forgetting it also raises money for the FOSM and its important work.

Christmas activities were abandoned, except for the Christmas cards sold by Ray Collins and the lovely nativity scene in the church porch, which raised £90.00.

One other highlight before Christmas was the brilliant display of poppy's that were installed in the entrance of the church to 'Lest We Forget' on the 75th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War.

June and Ray Collins should be congratulated for the idea and its superb execution.

The High Halstow Primary Academy has confirmed that it is keen to work together in the future, as in the past, as the roadmap allows.

The chairman would like to inform all trustees that Amazon have confirmed that 'The Friends of St. Margaret's' have been registered with Amazon Smile. Those who use Amazon can nominate us as their charity. This means that 0.5% of all spend is donated to our (FOSM) charity. It is entirely up to individuals who they nominate, but if you are not registered please consider the FOSM

Finally, please remember that our membership and subscriptions are the backbone of our funding. Recruitment of members is a priority.

There was one comment on the chairman's report. Chris Peek had not realised that Ray Collins was selling Christmas cards last year. Ray said that the cards were available in the village shop, but that an advertisement that was expected to be in the High Halstow Times, had failed to appear.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Ray Collins (Treasurer) then presented the financial report.

Subscriptions. We started the year with 47 monthly subscriptions and ended the year with 47 subscriptions, having lost one and gained one.

We had 3 annual subscriptions, with the loss of two regulars.

Subscriptions increased by 19% to £5,349.00.

We have one debtor, HMRC for the Gift Aid refund of £4,573.23. The unusually high figure is due to a very generous and substantial donation received in the last financial year.

Also please note that we have delayed a donation from Rochester Bridge Wardens of £6,000.00 to this financial year.

The Chairman thanked Ray Collins for his efforts in obtaining funding from various sources to enable us to undertake our priority works.

The full financial report is attached as an addendum, at the end of the minutes.

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WEBSITE.

Our website is administered by George Crozier and is well worth visiting. Our thanks go to George for all his work keeping the website up to date.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The chairman stated that historically we would elect the trustees of the FOSM each year. However, since last year we have become a charity and as part of this process it was agreed that the then current committee members (both elected and appointed) would become trustees for the term of office, as set out in the new CIO constitution.

The chairman confirmed that the number of trustees can be increased subject to the agreement of the FOSM.

Chris Peek then asked the chairman to confirm that any increase would only be to the number of elected members.

The chairman confirmed that this was correct. He would like to include as many members as possible.

AOB.

Ann Judges provided an update on this years Scarecrow festival from Tamsin Stowers. The Scarecrow trail will go live as of next Monday, 31st May.

The High Halstow Primary Academy are offering all students the opportunity of purchasing a Scarecrow questionnaire for £2.00.

Mike Meredith confirmed that both the High Halstow Times and Village Voices had included in their last issues advertisements for the Scarecrow festival that he had sent them.

There being no other business the Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.40 p.m.

SIGNED:

DATE:

ADDENDUM:

Subscriptions

We started the year with 47 monthly subscriptions and ended with 47, having lost one and gained one. We had 3 annual subscriptions, with the loss of two regulars.

However overall money from subscriptions increased 19% to £5,349.

Debtors

Are the HMRC, for the Gift Aid refund of £4,573.23.

Fund Raising

Due to the pandemic fund raising was down 76% at £581.40, but we were fortunate to have a more than generous donation to compensate.

Operating Expenses

Gaining Charity Commission status cost £1146 and a further £401.15 was spent on insurance and admin costs.

Funds to PCC

£12,990 was given towards the windows restoration but £22,165 was paid back to cover this and some of the previous year's outlay via the grant from the Friends of Kent Churches. We also provided £961 to obtain an extension to the temporary roof repairs and £900 in preparation to carry out quinquennial survey repairs to the church fabric later this year.

Grant Applications

A grant from the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust of £6,000 has been extended due to the pandemic delaying repairs and will be used as part payment for the two windows recently refurbished.

Audit

The accounts have been audited

Bank Balance

At the end of the financial year we had a healthy bank balance of £44,220.59 and £3.65 cash in hand

R Collins
Treasurer
May 2021

