

FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT

7.00 P.M. IN ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, HIGH HALSTOW.

PRESENT: Mike Meredith (Chairman) Marion Davies
David Laphorn Carole Cocup
Cora MacFarlane Chris Peek
Jeanette Dowsett Raymond Collins (Treasurer)
Mitchell Dowsett June Collins
Chris Cook Di Welch (Secretary)
Jane Cook Maureen Wellard
Maggie Ryan Ann Judges
George Crozer Linda Atkinson
Alan Kelly

APOLOGIES: Margaret Bufford Alan West Doreen West Margaret Billing
Keith Buckley Shirley Harris Tamsin Stowers Rev. Stephen Gwilt

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

The Chairman explained the reason for this Extraordinary General Meeting is that the Friends of St. Margaret's must register for Charitable Status due to the excess of funds that have been accrued over the past few years from the increased membership generated subscriptions and the grants that had been applied for. The Friends have breached the £5000 annual limit. A final Statement for Submission was completed and circulated to members prior to sending it to the Charity Commission. There was some discussion regarding the situation at All Saints' Church, Allhallows, but their application and acceptance was based on different criteria. The High Halstow Relief in Need Charity is different again, because it does not have a membership.

DISCUSSION ON ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S:

Under the new proposals, all Members of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church would be Associate Members of the Charity and the Committee of the Friends of St. Margaret's would become the Trustees of the Charity. In the first instance, the Trustees would be the existing Committee Members, who are:-

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| Linda Atkinson (Parish Council) | Carole Cocup |
| June Collins (Parish Church Council) | Raymond Collins (Parish Council) |
| Chris Cook | Jane Cook |
| Rev. Stephen Gwilt (ex officio) | Ann Judges |
| Michael Meredith | Maggie Ryan |
| Tamsin Stowers | Di Welch (Parish Church Council) |

Mr. David Laphorn made many constructive comments. He is involved with a Maritime Charity that has had to register with the Charity Commission and has a great deal of experience in this field. He pointed out that only the first group of Trustees have to be named and that each Trustee stands in perpetuity. Future Trustees have to be nominated and they should have expertise in a field that is of benefit to the Charity. There followed a discussion regarding a Quorum for meetings and it was suggested that it should be **four** Trustees.

There followed discussions regarding the problems that could arise should the Parish of High Halstow with Allhallows become part of a larger Parish; that is, if there is an amalgamation of Parishes. The assets of the Friends of St. Margaret's would remain with St. Margaret's Church. Another discussion was regarding the liability of each Trustee, in the event of any monetary problem arising. It was stated categorically that each individual Trustee would not be liable for any contribution.

The next discussion was regarding Annual General Meetings of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church. It was explained that the Trustees have to have an Annual General Meeting and that they have to agree and accept the Annual Accounts. The Associate Members of the Friends of St. Margaret's can cross examine the Trustees at the Annual General Meeting regarding any topics, but especially with regard to the Annual Accounts.

It was agreed that the existing Committee Members would be the first Trustees of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church Charity.

PRESENTATION OF THE MOTION REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. MARGARET'S AS A CHARITY

The Motion proposed was as follows:-

Once Registration of the Friends of St. Margaret's Church has been completed by the Charity Commission, the first Trustees mentioned in Clause 4 of the document will take office when the Registration by the Charity Commissioners has been approved.

PROPOSED: Mitchell Dowsett

SECONDED: David Laphorn

The Motion was passed nem con.

The Chairman then explained that application to the Charity Commission was not straightforward. The document that he had circulated was the product of approximately 50 hours work and it had prompted him to get in touch with the Charity Commission and they had stated that there were no exemptions for Church affiliated Charities, only Churches and that a twenty week processing time was currently operative. If there were flaws in the application it could be much longer. He had made enquiries regarding the cost of employing a Solicitor to progress our application as quickly and effectively as possible. Of the three Solicitors that were asked to quote, PWW Solicitors who are based in London seemed to offer the best value and expertise. The Solicitor overseeing our application would be Mr. Andrew Price, who had a great deal of experience in this field.

His quotation was as follows:

For drafting, submitting and dealing with the Charity Commission:

£950.00 plus V.A.T.

For changing the bank accounts:

£250.00 plus V.A.T.

Mr. David Laphorn explained that he had used PWW Solicitors in the past and was very pleased with the way in which Andrew Price had dealt with all his applications to the Charity Commission and had resolved problems when they arose.

PRESENTATION OF THE MOTION REGARDING ACCEPTING THE QUOTATION FROM PWW SOLICITORS

The motion was as follows:

That the Meeting accept the quotation of PWW Solicitors to draft, submit and deal with the Charity Commission on behalf of the Friends of St. Margaret's for the fee of £950.00 plus V.A.T.

PROPOSED: Chris Peek

SECONDED: Linda Atkinson

The Motion was passed nem con.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 9.10.pm.

Michael Meredith

Date: 1.06.2020

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Meredith', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Approved as an accurate record. 1.06.2020.