

**Friends of St Paul's Culham**  
**Meeting Thursday 24th February 2005**  
**Minutes**

**1 Present**

Rob Kennedy (chairman), James Macdonald (treasurer), Kath Pearce, Charles Reichardt, John Storrs (secretary), Carole Sutcliffe, Dr John Ward.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Rev Edward Tildesley, Brian Bracher.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Accepted.

**4 Matters Arising**

**4.1 Village School**

Rob Kennedy will follow this up.

**4.2 Party after Christmas Carol Service**

The party was a social success but made a small loss.

**4.3 Church Projects**

Discussed below.

**4.4 Disposing of the Piano**

A committee working party will deal with this on 12th March at 2pm. James Macdonald will provide a car + trailer, Rob Kennedy some pallet trucks. The Drayton dump people said they would take it without charge.

**4.5 Any Other Business**

Rob Kennedy wrote before Christmas to firms on Culham No 1 Site seeking support but none was forthcoming.

**5 Church Projects**

Charles Reichardt presented a report of churchwardens' activities, appended.

The PCC has agreed to proceed with the connection of mains water, with the provision of a sink unit and water heater in the flower preparation area. John Storrs stressed that the roof and plaster repairs, and the water connection, should all be completed by the end of the summer, so that we have good progress to report to our subscribers. He repeated his professional view that the cause of the plaster damage was the unfortunate drainpipe modification made when the water butt was installed, and that a drainpipe following the original design should be reinstated before the plaster repairs are done. He was requested to discuss this with architect Philip Waddy (The Malthouse, 60 East St Helen's St, Abingdon, 01235 523139).

## **6 Secretary's Report**

Requests for 2005 subscriptions went out at the end of January to the 22 (only!) subscribers last year who were not life members. The renewal form was simplified following Inland Revenue guidelines for Gift Aid forms. To date 17 renewals have been received.

It was agreed that Rob Kennedy, James Macdonald, Charles Reichardt and John Storrs should be bank signatories, and they accordingly signed the bank form. John Storrs will take this to the bank when he has received the required evidence of identity and address documents from the signatories (identity: passport or driving license; address: recent utility bill).

## **7 Treasurer's Report**

The total balance of the Friends' accounts excluding party costs and 2005 subscription income is £7975. The Secretary handed the Treasurer cheques totalling £405 (£365 subscriptions plus £40 party receipts).

## **8 Any Other Business**

The plant sale this year will be on Saturday 14th May, 2-4pm, outside the church, with refreshments etc inside as last year. The Friends' committee will run a raffle for which prizes will be solicited.

Following the AGM on 24th June (see below) the Friends' committee will host a barbecue at Culham Manor from 7.30pm. Tickets for the barbecue will be priced at £5 (children to 12 £3.50), with donations requested for drinks. James Macdonald will produce tickets and a leaflet for this. Mouthpiece publicity will be required.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

AGM on 24th June at 7pm at the church, open to all, followed by the barbecue.

John Storrs CEng MICE, Secretary, Friends of St Paul's  
8 The Green, Culham, Abingdon OX14 4LZ  
phone 01235 520395 email [js@storrs.demon.co.uk](mailto:js@storrs.demon.co.uk)

## **Appendix: CHURCHWARDENS' ACTIVITIES 20/02/2005**

1. CHURCHYARD. Parish Council have asked SODC to take on maintenance: SODC have accepted & this will start on 1 March 2005.

2. TREES. Mr Ringrose has trimmed dead wood from all but two trees: these will need SEB's cooperation because of electric power cables. He will provide a report on the state of the trees which we will pass on to SODC.

3. CHURCH REPAIRS. The damp NW corner has been inspected by both a builder and our architect. They think the drainage problem outside has been solved provided we take steps to stop leaves clogging the downpipe (This has been done). A somewhat larger outflow pipe from the rainwater tank will be installed. We have asked the builder to do this and also to remove damp rendering from the wall inside the NW corner.

4. CHURCH ROOF. Following a satisfactory quote from P. Donkin we have asked him to proceed with replacement of loose tiles and removal of moss from the Chancel Roof.

5. NEW FACILITIES - SUPPLY OF WATER. We have consulted the builder Peter Donkin & our architect Philip Waddy on site: they have provided valuable advice on routing & depth of pipes, also on positioning of a kitchen unit. A future toilet - if provided - will have to be in the base of the tower (requires a larger door) or in a lean-to extension outside the NW corner of the church with external access. The stonework of the church in that area precludes easy access from inside.

We have exchanged letters with the school in support of new facilities: they will still need to use the Church after school extension work this year.

Letters outlining our proposals have been sent to Mrs Saunders of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee), & also to English Heritage (who will organize an archaeologist). They, hopefully, will give advice on planning stages and application for a Faculty (for which we have now got the appropriate tome of paperwork).

The routing of fresh water is clear. Drainage needs to be decided - either connection to the sewer with a pipe under the churchyard avoiding graves, or to some form of treatment tank. The firm who make Klargester tanks have been contacted by email (no reply) & phone ("Use a cesspit"). We hope to get some sensible advice from the DAC.

B H Bracher, C Reichardt, Churchwardens