

Friends of St Paul's Culham

Meeting Thursday 1st December 2005

Minutes

1 Present

Brian Bracher, Rob Kennedy (chairman), Charles Reichardt, John Storrs (secretary), Carole Sutcliffe, Dr John Ward.

2 Apologies for Absence

None received.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Water Connection

Brian Bracher and Charles Reichardt, as representatives of the PCC, were unhappy with the provision of an external water tap as part of the water connection project. They felt this might result in unnecessary cost to the PCC if the tap was left running, and that there would be problems in the winter with frozen external pipework. To avoid delays, we agreed that this provision be removed from the project. The main reason for the provision was that it would allow the present plastic drainpipe to be replaced with one similar to the original, to avoid a repeat of water damage recently repaired at our expense. As an alternative for the time being, we agreed that the PCC be asked to ensure that a yearly inspection be made of gutters and drainpipes. The damage occurred because this was not done regularly in the past.

4.2 Outstanding Payment

The Secretary provided copies of a letter sent to the Treasurer and to him by the Secretary of the PCC, complaining (with justification) about delays on the Committees' part in making agreed payments. We apologised for payment delays which have occurred recently and agreed to avoid them in future. Outstanding cheques have now been issued.

4.3 Rev Edward Tildesley

Rev Edward Tildesley has now left the parish.

4.4 Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service is at 6pm on Sunday 18th December. As discussed, this year the Friends will not provide refreshments.

5 Any Other Business

5.1 Water Connection

Preparations for the water connection have slowed down because Brian Bracher has been ill. There is a great deal to be done (the Petition for a Faculty is a 20 page document), and many organisations to contact including English Heritage. Work on the Petition is now advanced.

5.2 Treasurer

James Wilson-MacDonald will resign as treasurer at the end of the year. We thanked him in absentia for his work for the Friends. The Secretary will ask Philip Owen if he would be willing to take on this role [the answer was yes]. The Chairman will examine the accounts with a view to moving everything to cash deposit, so we will be in a position to make prompt payments when the work commences. We agreed a request by John Ward that a clear report on our financial position be made and minuted at every meeting.

5.3 Fund Raising

We will aim to increase the number of subscribers next year from the present minimal 20+. In February we will send a letter to everyone in the village, informing them about current and planned projects and inviting their support. We can also request further support from life members, along the lines of "I'm already a life member but would like to make a donation". John Ward asked if there were any famous people linked to Culham, who might be featured in our publicity. None were known!

5.4 Plant Sale

Brian Bracher thanked us on behalf of the PCC for our help with the plant sale.

6 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 23rd February 2006 at 9pm at the Lion, Culham. Note the change to the usual time to accommodate late workers.

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