

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

Year 2017/2018

Friday 17 November 2017

Trustees Present: Mrs J M Wilson [Chairman]
 Ms J Z Brooks [Company Secretary]
 Mr R H Cunningham
 Mr M D Haseler
 Mr M J Hindley
 Mrs L K Nicholls

Also in attendance: Revd D E Gaffney [Spiritual Leader]
 Revd C A Bank [Secretary of Ministers' Committee]
 Mrs S G Field [Company Accountant]

31	COUNCIL MEETING A meeting of the Conference Council was held at Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire on Friday 17 November 2017.	
32	OPENING The Revd Christine Bank opened the meeting by leading the Council in remembering Mrs Patricia Russell, who had previously been the Council Recorder, and reading Psalm 84.	
33	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.	
34	MINUTES 34.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council September 2017 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. 34.2 Matters arising from the Minutes 34.2.1 Burnley Society Closure [see Minute 5.2.1] The Company Secretary reported that Burnley church was finally sold for £180,000 on 13 September. The question of whether the restriction of twenty years in respect of the sale proceeds may be lifted is still under investigation with the Charity Commission. The question of the sale of the freehold of the flats is also still ongoing. 34.2.2 Legionella and Electrical Installations and Gas Certificates[see Minute 5.2.2] An updated report from Mr Wilf Woodhouse was considered and Mr Richard Cunningham reported orally. Since the last Council meeting one Society had had an electrical inspection but Mr Wilf Woodhouse was still waiting for the report. Mr Woodhouse was also waiting to hear what was being done in respect of a building that had had an unsatisfactory report. Mr Richard Cunningham had given advice to a Society that had received a bad electrical report and Mr Woodhouse had offered his help to the same Society regarding its Legionella report but	

<p>very little work appeared to have actually been done. Mr Woodhouse had been informed by Accrington society that the Legionella risk assessment had at last been carried out but he was still waiting to receive a copy of the report. Also he is still waiting for the Gas Safe inspection to be carried out by this Society. The Council noted that the building continues to be used. It was felt that Mr Woodhouse was not receiving much co-operation from some Societies.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that the Chairman would telephone all those who had outstanding issues in order to support the work being done by Mr Woodhouse.</p>	JMW
<p>34.2.3 Events Calendar [see Minute 12]</p>	
<p>Mr Richard Cunningham gave a demonstration of the calendar that had been created by Miss Gemma McLean. It will not be visible from the website but will need to be accessed deliberately via calendar.gnc.org.uk. It is for the use of those within Conference who arrange events, to avoid clashes in dates. Users will either be given passwords to enter their events or they may supply Miss McLean with details for her to enter on the calendar.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that the design of the calendar be approved and that Mr Cunningham and Miss McLean be charged with rolling it out.</p>	RHC
<p>34.2.4 Investment Policy and Report of the Finance Advisory Committee [see Minute 16]</p>	
<p>The Council's Investment Policy is in the form of a Standing Order and it was felt that this was not the best way to hold a policy. There is no detail in the policy regarding ethical investments. The Council considered the FAC's recommendations on investment policy and the minutes of the FAC's meeting on 19 October and the information provided in respect of the UBS Alpes 2008 fund.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that Mr David Haseler prepare an amended Investment Policy to be considered at the March Council meeting.</p>	MDH
<p>Resolved: that the FAC's recommendation that a further £300,000 be invested with Rathbone's when funds are available as this will bring about a reduction in their charges be accepted.</p>	SGF
<p>Resolved: that \$100,000 be withdrawn from the UBS Alpes 2008 fund and invested with Newtons.</p>	MDH SGF
<p>Resolved: that the FAC's recommendations in Mr David Haseler's memo of 7 November 2017 be accepted.</p>	
<p>34.2.5 Mr Graeme Harding [see minute 17]</p>	
<p>The Company Secretary reported that Mr Harding became a member of the permanent staff on 1 October 2017.</p>	
<p>34.2.6 Purley Chase [see Minute 22]</p>	
<p>The conversion of the living accommodation into two flats is more complicated than was originally envisaged. The Purley team had put forward a temporary proposal, which met with the approval of both managers, whereby they each had two lockable rooms for their private use but shared the kitchen and bathroom and a large lounge.</p>	
<p>The Purley Team reported that with the resignation of Mrs Alison Plunkett they were technically one member short but they did not feel that there was a need for a replacement at this time.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that the Purley Team's recommendations regarding the living accommodation be accepted.</p>	MDH
<p>Resolved: that there was no immediate need to appoint an additional member to the Team but that if someone were to come forward the Team was authorised to invite that person to</p>	

	attend a Team meeting.	
35	<p>CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE BY E-MAIL</p> <p>35.1 Decision confirmed: Confirm decision of 25 September that Mr Graeme Harding be allowed to continue with work he does other than for Conference and that he be allowed to keep his dog at Purley Chase.</p> <p>35.2 Decision confirmed: Confirm decision of 3 October that the Annual Return to the Charity Commission be approved.</p>	
36	<p>MINISTRY ISSUES</p> <p>The Revd Becky Jarratt has started a new initiative in York called Forest Church. This is for children of primary school age and younger. The Council was pleased to learn that funds had been used to support this and wished the venture well.</p> <p>The 250th anniversary of New Church Day is on 19 June 2020. The Ministry wish to arrange something to mark this event.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council supports the Ministry's idea in principle.</p>	
37	<p>COMPANY ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT</p> <p>The Company Accountant produced five sets of figures for the Council to consider. These were the Conference Income and Expenditure Account for the period April to September 2017 (with comparative figures for the same period last year), the Conference five year forecast, which showed operating deficits of £34K, £36K, £51K, £67K and £93K, the Purley Chase Account for the period April to September 2017 (with comparative figures for the same period last year and a forecast for the whole of the year to 31 March 2018), the Common Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Accounts for the periods April to June 2017 and July to September 2017 and information on the Youth Leader fund, the Ministers' Fund and the Publishing Fund. As usual Mrs Field provided comprehensive notes with these accounts.</p> <p>Mrs Field also explained that she was making every effort to charge expenditure to restricted funds wherever possible. An example of this was her charging for Miss Gemma McLean's time spent on producing the year book to the Publishing Fund.</p>	
38	<p>COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2019</p> <p>Resolved: that the meeting dates in 2019 be 1-2 March, 10-11 May, 20-21 September and 15-16 November.</p>	JZB
39	<p>BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES</p> <p>Resolved: that the schedule produced by Mr David Haseler be approved.</p>	
40	<p>RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p> <p>Resolved: that Mr Andrew Bentley, Mr David Sharrock and Mr David Haseler be re-appointed.</p>	
41	<p>ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS</p> <p>Resolved: that the income from all funds requiring Council's instructions be allocated to the interest at the disposal of Conference.</p>	
42	<p>THE 2018 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME</p> <p>Mr Richard Cunningham produced the first draft of the programme. Small amendments were suggested. The Revd Christine Bank provided feedback from the Minister's Committee. Mr Cunningham will produce a second draft for the March meeting.</p>	RHC
43	<p>ROWAN TREE AND PLAQUE</p> <p>Resolved: that the wording for the plaque suggested by Mr John Ford be approved and that Mr Ford be asked to conduct the ceremony.</p>	RHC

	Mr Richard Cunningham was requested to ask Mr Ford to confirm that he and The Hayes were happy with the time slot he had allocated on the Conference programme.	RHC
44	<p>MISS GEMMA McLEAN</p> <p>It has come to the Council's attention that although Miss McLean works twenty hours a week people expect her to be available at all times and call her in the evenings and at weekends about matters that are not urgent.</p> <p>Resolved: that a letter be sent to people entitled to Miss McLean's services in addition to Council members (i.e.Ministers, HLM's and Conference employees) about this, after consultation with Miss McLean.</p>	RHC
45	<p>CHESTER SOCIETY</p> <p>The Council was saddened by the news that at a meeting on 6 November the Society had decided to close. The final service was held on Saturday 11 November. It was led by the Revd David Gaffney and was well-attended.</p>	
46	<p>CONTACTING CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS</p> <p>Mrs Lara Nicholls drew attention to the fact Society Secretaries were contacted with important news and that they were then responsible for passing it on to members but that as Societies closed there was no mechanism for contacting former members. Ms Zoë Brooks said she would look into adding active Conference members to mailing lists when a Society closed.</p>	JZB
47	<p>CLOSING</p> <p>The Revd Christine Bank read Revelation 21: 1-4 and led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.</p>	

Future meetings

March 2nd - 3rd 2018
 May 11th - 12th 2018
 July 24th - 27th 2018 Annual Meeting
 September 14th - 15th 2018
 November 16th - 17th 2018
 March 1st - 2nd 2019
 May 10th - 11th 2019
 July 23rd - 26th 2019 Annual Meeting
 September 20th - 21st 2019
 November 15th - 16th 2019