

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

Year 2017/2018

Friday 11 May 2018

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

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

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| 86 | COUNCIL MEETING A meeting of the Conference Council was held at Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire on Friday 11 May 2018. | |
| 87 | OPENING The Revd Christine Bank opened the meeting by remembering the Revd Leslie Chambers and his contribution to the life of the church and then by reading Isaiah 44: 1-5. | |
| 88 | WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mr M J Hindley, who is unwell. | |
| 89 | MINUTES 89.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council March 2018 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. 89.2 Matters arising from the Minutes 89.2.1 Burnley Society Closure [see Minute 58.2.1] 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. They requested further information and when this was supplied by our solicitor they told him to apply for a cy pres scheme, which is what he had done when he first approached them. The question of the sale of the flats is still ongoing. 89.2.2 Legionella and Electrical Installations [see Minute 58.2.2] An updated report from Mr Wilf Woodhouse was received. It showed that SOLCe and Seaburn Dene still had outstanding electrical work. Kensington Society had decided to discontinue use of the building rather than having the electrical work done. | RHC |

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| 92 | <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 year ended 31 March 2018 which showed a deficit of £18K (compared with £17K in the previous year), the Conference five year forecast, which showed operating deficits of £31K, £43K, £64K, £85K and £97K, the Purley Chase Account for the year ended 31 March 2018 which showed deficit of £73K (compared with £53K in the previous year), the Common Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 and information on the Youth Leader fund, the Ministers' Fund, the Publishing Fund and the Programme Leader Fund. As usual Mrs Field provided comprehensive notes with these accounts.</p> <p>Mrs Field also explained that a programme of redecoration was needed at Purley and that the Revd Alison Southcombe had prepared a flyer inviting donations for this.</p> <p>Resolved: that the flyer asking for donations for redecoration at Purley be included in the pack handed to those who attended the AGM.</p> | JZB |
| 93 | <p>QUORUM AT COUNCIL MEETINGS</p> <p>Resolved: that at least half of the voting members needed to be present for there to be a quorum. (For the avoidance of doubt this means that, for example, if there are five voting members then at least three must be present.)</p> | |
| 94 | <p>OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR COMPANY SECRETARY</p> <p>The Company Secretary voiced her concerns about handing over files for her successor to keep at home, as it appears that when she steps down her replacement may not be a Conference person. Hopefully it should be possible for some office space to be provided at Purley for her successor and also for a future Company Accountant.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Purley Management Team be asked to look into this.</p> | MDH |
| 95 | <p>JOB DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Line managers were reminded that all job descriptions and allocations of duties should be reviewed and that any amended ones should be sent to the Company Secretary to be placed in the employee's file.</p> | ALL |
| 96 | <p>SPONSORSHIP FOR PEOPLE WISHING TO STUDY AT SOLCE</p> <p>In May 2017 the Council again agreed to match the £1,000 sponsorship funding provided by SOLCe, making the total available £2,000. This second grant was to be available from 1 September 2017. The SOLCe fund was to be used first. The Council agreed that it would review this at its May 2018 meeting.</p> <p>No use has been made to date of the £1,000 for the year from 1 September 2017.</p> <p>Resolved: that a grant of £1,000 would be available from 1 September 2018.</p> | JZB |
| 97 | <p>LIFELINE</p> <p>The Council considered a letter from the editor, Mr Alan Misson, in which he stated that he and the distributor, Mr Howard Turner, intended to step down after the November/December 2018 issue was published. There was discussion as to the future of Lifeline and in particular as to whether a printed version was necessary.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council write to thank Mr Misson for his 20 years as editor and that there should be a choice session at Conference entitled 'The Future of Lifeline' and that the situation should be highlighted in Purley People on Facebook at the end</p> | JMW |

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| | of July. | JMW |
| 98 | <p>GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES</p> <p>These procedures are at Appendix P4 and Appendix P5 of the Staff Handbook. Mr David Hasler drew attention to the fact that the persons designated to carry out these procedures were not the appropriate ones for hourly-paid staff at Purley Chase and put forward alternative appendices for the Purley hourly-paid staff. Minor amendments were made to these. He also said there were other parts of the Staff Handbook that were not appropriate for Purley hourly-paid staff.</p> <p>Resolved: that the separate Appendices P4 and P5 for hourly-paid staff be adopted</p> <p>Resolved: that the Purley Management Team be asked to consider what amendments needed to be made to the Staff Handbook to make it appropriate for hourly-paid staff.</p> | JZB MDH |
| 99 | <p>PETS AT PURLEY CHASE</p> <p>At present the Council is the body that grants approval for pets to be kept at Purley Chase. It was felt that this was a cumbersome procedure.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Purley Management Team be authorised to make decision regarding pets at the Purley Chase Centre.</p> | MDH |
| 100 | <p>ACCESS TO COUNCIL MINUTES AND OTHER PAPERS AT SWEDENBORG HOUSE</p> <p>Mr Gordon Kuphal had written to the Council on behalf of the Library and Archives Committee regarding access to material by researchers.</p> <p>Resolved: that personal data should be destroyed in accordance with data protection legislation.</p> <p>Resolved: that in view of the fact that the Library and Archives Committee was to be disbanded in the next few years any requests by researchers should be made to the Council via the Company Secretary.</p> | JZB |
| 101 | <p>ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP LEADER WEEK-ENDS</p> <p>A request had been received from the CAM Co-ordinator for additional people to be allowed to attend Worship Leader week-ends.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council would continue to support financially those who lead worship and those who are on a course, or considering undertaking a course, for worship leading but that any others who wished to attend would need to be self-financing.</p> | JZB |
| 102 | <p>BOURNEMOUTH SOCIETY</p> <p>Bournemouth Society wishes to sell the manse as soon as they are able to evict the current tenant for non-payment of rent and have asked for the Council's approval for the sale and for it to appoint Mrs Judith Wilson to act on behalf of Conference in any eviction proceedings.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council agrees that the manse may be sold.</p> <p>Resolved: that Mrs Judith Wilson be the person authorised to act on behalf of Conference in any legal proceedings necessary to evict the tenant.</p> | JZB JMW |
| 103 | <p>SEABURN DENE SOCIETY</p> <p>A request for support for keeping the Society going has been received from some of the members.</p> <p>Resolved: that whilst offering encouragement the Council needed to make them aware that it cannot assist with the day to day running of the Society and of all the</p> | |

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| | responsibilities involved. | JZB |
| 104 | SPONSORED STUDENT MONITORING GROUP - LEE DIFFER The SSMG met with Mr Lee Differ on 11 May. Everything is very positive and encouraging and he is on track for ordination at Conference 2019. | |
| 105 | CLOSING The Revd Christine Bank closed with a reading from Revelation 22: 1-6. | |

Future meetings

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