

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

Year 2018/19

Friday 14 September 2018

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

1	COUNCIL MEETING A meeting of the Conference Council was held at Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire on Friday 14 September 2018.	
2	OPENING The Revd Christine Bank opened the meeting by remembering the Revd Norman Ryder and Mrs Jean Chambers and speaking about their funerals. She then followed with a reading from Luke 2: 29-32.	
3	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.	
4	MINUTES 4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council July 2018 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. 4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes 4.2.1 Burnley Society Building and Freehold of the Flats [see Minute 112.2.1] It is hoped that the sale of the freehold flats will be completed shortly. The Charity Commission has told our solicitor that we must apply for a cy pres scheme to have the restriction on the use of the sale proceeds lifted Resolved: that a formal application be made to the Charity Commission by The General Conference of the New Church for a cy pres scheme to enable the sale proceeds of the sale of the church and rooms at Briercliffe Road Burnley, BB10 1XH and of the freehold of the flats 1 to 10 New Church Mews, Briercliffe Road Burnley BB10 1XA to be released from the restriction in the trust deed that they must be held for 20 years before being spent, the Burnley Society of the New Church having decided at its meeting on 17 July 2016 to close and also having decided unanimously that no time restraints were necessary concerning the assets of	

<p>the Burnley Society.</p>	JZB
<p>4.2.2 Electrical Installations [see Minute 112.2.2]</p>	RHC
<p>Mr Richard Cunningham was unable to visit Seaburn Dene as planned. The situation will be re-examined next year.</p>	
<p>4.2.3 Kensington Society [see Minute 112.2.3]</p>	
<p>As there is no Trust Deed it is necessary to obtain permission from the Charity Commission to sell the church and also its agreement regarding the use of the sale proceeds. The Charity Commission has responded to our request for permission to sell the property by asking for a formal application for a cy pres scheme.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that a formal application be made to the Charity Commission by The General Conference of the New Church for a cy pres scheme to enable the church and rooms at 5 Pembroke Villas London, W11 3EN, to be sold and that, in accordance with a motion passed by the Kensington Society of the New Church, upon closure of the Society, and following the discharge of all financial responsibilities in connection with the closure, the remaining assets should be passed to the General Conference of the New Church, the trustees of the property, with a view to the capital and income being available primarily to support all those involved in the provision of activities for children and young people associated with the New Church, which could include the New Church Youth Association, and any costs whatsoever in connection with the Purley Chase Centre and any other Centre used for the same purposes, as well as an increase in the uses of the internet to allow communication between young people to be expanded, and secondarily for any costs and expenses incurred in the recruitment, training and employment of ministers, and group or course leaders approved by the Conference.</p>	JZB
<p>The Society proposes to close on 30 September.</p>	
<p>4.2.4 6 Dunkirk Avenue [see Minute 112.2.4]</p>	
<p>The sale was completed on 24 August 2018. Conference's share is 77.74%.</p>	
<p>4.2.5 6 Atwater Court [see Minute 112.2.5]</p>	
<p>The sale at £297,500 is proceeding.</p>	JZB
<p>4.2.6 Greenhill Society [see Minute 112.2.6]</p>	
<p>The idea of a 'guardian' scheme to protect the property had to be rejected as Conference's insurance company would not agree to it.</p>	
<p>A new estate agent has been appointed and the sales brochure has been prepared.</p>	
<p>The permission of the Charity Commission will be required before the property can be sold and this has been requested. It seems likely that they will require a formal request for a cy pres scheme.</p>	
<p>Resolved: that a formal application be made to the Charity Commission by The General Conference of the New Church, being the Corporate Trustee of the Charities Administered in Connection with Greenhill New Church, registered number 263656, for a cy pres scheme to enable the church and rooms at 177 Leicester Road New Barnet London EN5 5EB to be sold and the proceeds applied for the general purposes of the General Conference, the Greenhill Society having taken the decision to close and thus having no further use for the premises.</p>	JZB
<p>4.2.7 Bank Account and Investment Management Signatories (see Minute 117)</p>	
<p>Mrs Sally Field produced documents to be signed in order to effect the decision made at the July meeting.</p>	SGF

	<p>4.2.8 Safeguarding (see Minute 119) Mrs Lara Nicholls reported that the offending Society now had two people who were DBS checked but that she was still chasing for its Document 5.</p> <p>4.2.10 Electrical System at Purley Chase Mrs Sally Field reported that our insurers were insisting that checks be done every five years. Mr Richard Cunningham will comment on the report when it is done and negotiate with those reporting regarding any work that is recommended.</p>	LKN SGF
5	<p>COMPANY ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT The Company Accountant produced five sets of figures for the Council to consider. These were the Conference Income and Expenditure Account for the three months ended 30 June 2018 which showed a deficit of £8K (compared with a surplus of £13K in the previous year), the Conference five year forecast, which showed operating deficits of £22K, £40K, £61K, £87K and £94K, the Purley Chase Account for the three months ended 30 June 2018 which showed deficit of £11K (compared with £1K in the previous year), the Common Investment Fund Income and Expenditure Accounts for the three months ended 30 June 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. It was noted that for Purley Chase the catering costs were £9,786 compared with £6,741 for the same period in 2017 and that the profit on bar sales had gone down from £945 in 2017 to £194 this year. Mrs Field also reported that £2,300, including gift aid, had been raised as a result of the 'Painting Purley' appeal. This is close to the total needed. Although the rates of pay for hourly paid staff are the manager's responsibility it was felt that the Purley Team should monitor this to ensure that their cost of living increases were not lower than the increase given to other staff.</p>	SGF
6	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM CONFERENCE In view of the requests made at Conference it was felt that choice sessions should be across two evenings as they have been in the past. It was noted that we have been asked to avoid requesting eight rooms at the same time. This happened on the Wednesday, so the Ministry need to take note. Ms Zoë Brooks asked Mrs Lara Nicholls if she would include a note on the 2019 programme informing people that room keys would not be available until after 2.00 pm and if she would also provide a first draft of the programme for the November meeting. The problems regarding the readability of the screen were discussed. Ms Gemma McLean is going to look at possible solutions.</p>	LKN CAB LKN RHC
7	<p>COST OF CONFERENCE 2019 For some years now people with children have paid less to attend than others who might find the cost of attending difficult to meet. It was hoped that Areas and Societies would always support their representatives by offering to pay their costs. Resolved: that the same reductions in charges would apply as in previous years.</p>	JZB
8	<p>PURLEY CHASE MANAGEMENT SITUATION Mrs Rachel Gilsenan attended some of this part of the meeting by invitation. She explained how she was currently managing Purley and provided details of her</p>	

	<p>proposals for the future. How the management is eventually structured will depend to some extent on how well these proposals work in practice.</p> <p>The Council expressed its thanks for the way Mrs Gilsenan had stepped in and taken over the entire management responsibility following the resignation of the former manager. It was made clear to her that Purley is a cost to Conference and that she is not expected to make a profit or break even.</p> <p>After Mrs Gilsenan had left the meeting Mr David Haseler said that he wished to resign as her line manager and that he also wished to resign from membership of the Purley Management Team.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council express its thanks to Mr Haseler for his very many years of service on the team.</p> <p>Mrs Sally Field agreed to be the Council's link with the Purley Management Team for the time being.</p>	
9	<p>VOTING BY EMAIL</p> <p>It was decided to leave reviewing this until the November meeting.</p>	JZB
10	<p>THE FUTURE OF LIFELINE</p> <p>Resolved: that Mrs Gemma McLean be asked about a technology solution which could be implemented should there be no response to the appeal for a new editor.</p>	JMW
12	<p>COLLEGE ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Conference is the Corporate Trustee of the College and in this capacity in May 2014 it approved the spending of capital of £116,000 in order to improve the finances of the College in the long term. Mr Richard Nicholls provided details showing what had happened since then for the information of the Conference Council.</p> <p>Resolved: that the Council express its thanks to Mr Nicholls for his very clear report showing how matters had unfolded in 2014/15 and subsequent years.</p>	JZB
13	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p> <p>The FAC queried why money had been invested in Newtons when they had recommended an increase in the investment with Rathbones. Mr David Haseler was asked to explain to them at the next meeting that only Conference's free funds could be invested in Rathbones and that restricted funds had to go to Newtons.</p> <p>Mrs Sally Field reported that the UBS cash that the FAC had recommended should be returned had now been received.</p> <p>Resolved: that £500,000 be invested with Rathbones when available.</p>	MDH SGF
14	<p>YOUTH TEAM</p> <p>Meetings to develop skills were proposed but the Council felt that too much time was going to be spent on meetings with the travel distances involved and that an annual meeting during Conference would/might be the best solution. There was also a request for a separate bank account but it was felt that floats were a better way of solving problems.</p> <p>Resolved: that Mrs Lara Nicholls speak to the Revd Jack Dunion.</p>	LKN
15	<p>BOURNEMOUTH MANSE</p> <p>Resolved: that Mrs Judith Wilson replace Ms Zoë Brooks in connection with the sale of 101 Tuckton Road, Southbourne, BH3 3HT</p>	JMW
16	<p>ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP LEADER WEEKENDS</p> <p>The Council considered proposals by Mrs Jan Millar to widen the attendance and also change the name of the event to 'Leaders United'.</p>	

	Resolved: that the proposals made by Mrs Millar be adopted	JZB
17	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>It is possible that two potential new trustees will attend the November meeting.</p> <p>Resolved: that those considering standing for election and thus being invited to attend a Council meeting be asked to provide a short personal statement before the meeting.</p> <p>Resolved: that after the November meeting the need for more trustees be highlighted, as we are still without a Vice-chairman</p>	JMW
18	<p>PAISLEY SOCIETY</p> <p>As Conference is the owner of the church Paisley Society's solicitors have asked that the Company Secretary instruct them to sell the property.</p> <p>Resolved: that Messrs Cochran Dickie of 21 Moss Street Paisley PA1 1RX be appointed to act for the General Conference of the New Church in connection with the sale of the church and rooms at 17 George Street Paisley PA1 2LB</p> <p>Resolved: that Mrs Margaret Cowie be authorised to act in place of Mr John Ford in connection with the sale of Paisley church.</p>	JZB JZB
19	<p>CLOSING</p> <p>The Council said the Lord's Prayer and this was followed by a blessing from the Revd David Gaffney.</p>	

Future meetings

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