

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING

held on Friday 8th September 2023

Trustees Present: Mrs M L Cowie

Chair

Mr N K Sutton.

Vice-Chair

Mrs P Grimshaw Mrs S Chesworth Revd B R Jarvis

Also in attendance: Ms N Welch Company Secretary

Mrs R Jaggs Company Accountant

Mr C Chambers President, New Church College

Revd J Dunion Spiritual Leader

Revd B Talbot Secretary, Committee of Ministers

Mr B Friend Invited Visitor

Miss L Jones Young People's Committee

Start time: 10.00am Finish Time: 16.16pm

1 Opening

The Revd Jack Dunion opened the meeting with a reading from Revelation 21:1,2 & Divine Providence (DP) 251 & True Christian Religion (TCR) 784, followed by a moment of contemplation on the readings.

2 Welcome

Margaret Cowie introduced and welcomed Barry Friend and Libby Jones to the Council meeting. Barry Friend had been invited to the Council meeting to see if he would be interested in being co-opted onto the Council with the understanding that, although he has all the rights of a Trustee, he will need to be nominated for election at the next Annual Meeting in July 2024. Libby Jones attended as a representative of the Young People's Committee.

3 Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th July 2023.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by all present with Revd Bruce Jarvis proposing and Sue Chesworth seconding.

	3.2 Matters arising from the minutes	
	Update Policies and Procedures (see minute 77) Natalie explained that she is currently still working on updating the policies and procedures manuals.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting held on 27 th July 2023. The minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved by all present with Sue Chesworth proposing and Revd Bruce Jarvis seconding.	
5	Council	
	Structure Natalie proposed that at the next Annual Meeting all Trustees should be present on the platform to give support to those who are presenting. In addition, she suggested that each Trustee should look after a certain area of Council business and attend any sub-committee meetings so they are able to update the Council on that particular area. Natalie will distribute a list of areas for each Trustee to consider looking after and what experience they can offer to support the role.	NW
	New Council Members Currently, there are three vacancies on the Council, and we need to be thinking of what areas of expertise someone could bring to the Council, then issue a newsletter out to the Church. It was agreed that a letter containing a list of areas in which the Council needs assistance would be sent to all Church Secretaries in an effort to encourage members to join the Council.	
	Society Reps – The Council discussed the possibility of inviting a representative from each Society to a Council meeting they could keep up to date with what the Council are working on and also gives the Society the opportunity to update the Council of what the they are doing. The Council decided this would be a great opportunity to get people more involved and it was decided that Natalie would send a letter to the societies to invite a representative from each Church.	NW
	Action: Natalie to send an invite out to each Society	IN W
6	Young People Committee Libby Jones gave a presentation on behalf of the Young People's Committee (YPC)	
	The Aims and Objectives of the Young People Committee:	
	• To increase retention of 18 + age group	
	• To help young adults have a deeper understanding of more than just the religious aspects of the church	
	To increase intergenerational links between our age group and others	
	To help with/take over church social media	
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	had researched prices charged by similar local businesses to produce the pricing structure. All present approved the new pricing structure for 2024 and agreed that Rachel can start advertising.	
10	Purley Pricing 2024 Rachel Gilsenan had put forward the pricing for Purley 2024 for the Council to approve. Rachel	
9	Company Accountant Finance Update – Rachel Jaggs gave a brief update on the accounts.	
	Natalie explained that she and John Ford are already working on this and will be contacting the users of the buildings identified.	NW
	Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is a lightweight form of precast concrete frequently used in public sector buildings in the UK from the mid-1960s to the 1990s. With all the concerns in the news at the minute, the Council have a duty of care to establish if any the New Church buildings are affected.	
	RAAC	
	Action: MC will discuss with John Ford to appoint a surveyor to visit Bradford Church	MC
0	Bradford Church Bradford Church is in need of urgent repairs to the roof and flooring. This is a health and safety issue. John Ford proposes that a surveyor be appointed to visit the Bradford Church to determine the extent of the problem and the cost of repairs. The Jeggins Trust have already provided help with repairs to the floor and a staircase.	
8	Properties	
	IT Manager – The New IT Manager Paul Crone will officially start his role on Monday 2 nd October 2023 working 28 hours per week. Paul will collect the IT equipment on Tuesday 12 th September 2023, and will spend some time familiarising himself with the programmes and software used by Conference ready for when he starts. Unfortunately, this means we are without an IT Manager until then, although communications can be sent out by email via the secretaries. Purley Chase Programme Director - It was agreed that this still needs more consideration by the Purley Management Team, after which the Council would determine how to move forward.	
7	Human Resources	
	Libby left the meeting	
	The Young People's Committee (YPC)wanted approval of the name. All present approve the title of Young People's Committee (YPC) and offered full support.	
	The Council expressed their thanks for all the impressive work so far and are excited about the the Young People's Committee vision and feel that the New Church does indeed have a bright future. Once the Committee has been set up Margaret Cowie, Sue Chesworth, and Natalie Welch will organise a meeting with them to get an update and see where any support is needed to help the Committee achieve their aims and objectives.	

Any other business New Church College – Chris Chambers mentioned he has been attending the Council meetings as a representative from the New Church College and felt it would be nice to have a representative from the Council attend the New Church College meetings, ideally someone involved in education and training. Meetings take place 3 times a year via Zoom, plus one inperson meeting per year at Wellspring House. Sue Chesworth agreed that she would attend the next meeting on 7th October 2023 via Zoom as a Council representative	
Barry Friend agreed to be appointed as a Trustee until Conference 2024 when he will submit his nomination.	
Meeting closed at 16.15pm on Friday 8th September 2023 with a prayer from Revd Jack Dunion	
Fix Council meeting dates for year ahead	
2023 November 24th 2023 (Zoom Meeting)	
2024 March 15th 2024 – (Zoom Meeting) April 2024 – Finance Meeting (DTBC) May 17th 2024 – Purley Chase Centre July 23rd – 26th 2024 Annual Meeting at Hayes Conference Centre September 6th 2024 (Zoom Meeting)	
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