



## Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes

### Minutes of the Trustees' Meeting held on Thursday 22 November 2012 at 7.45 pm at Great Linford, St Andrew's church

Document Date 24.10.2012  
Amended 25.11.2012

#### 1. Opening Prayer

David Wilson began the meeting with prayer for guidance for the evening's deliberations

#### 2. Advance Notification of Any Other Business

*Statistics for Mission:2012 survey; Confirmation Service; Good News for Young People; Art Display and Sale at Downs Barn*

#### 3. PCC Meeting

There was no formal PCC business, but Bob Cross suggested that the Partnership should express their regret and disappointment at the failure of the Anglican Synod to agree to the appointment of women bishops. Revd Andy Jowitt thought that individual letters would be preferable, but consensus opinion was that a formal letter should be sent from SEP. It was agreed that Bob Cross should draft a response for Trustees to approve.

#### 4. Minutes of the Meeting on 20 September 2012 for approval

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

#### 5. Matters Arising

*Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from 2013*

Mike Morris reported that Maggie Prisk had agreed to be nominated for the position of Chairman as she would in any case have to resign as Treasurer since Adrian Prisk will be taking over as Treasurer to the Mission Partnership and there could be conflict of interest.

Annette Trayner (New Bradwell, St James) had volunteered to be nominated for Minutes Secretary, she will be invited to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee in January to get some understanding of what would be involved.

That does leave a problem regarding Treasurer, but Revd Paul Smith said that he was investigating a possible nominee for this position.

*Chairman's Working Party on Stantonbury Records and Archives*

Mike Morris said that there had not been any meeting, but it would be arranged for past documents to be stored at Bradwell Chapel and older material offered to Aylesbury Record Office (although at a future date local records will be returned to Milton Keynes for safe storage). Bob Cross wondered whether there is any Diocesan rule regarding keeping documents.

*List of Members of the Partnership*

The Secretary reported that due to a computer malfunction the Excel compilation of SEP members had become corrupted, this does confirm the importance of storing data in more than one location. However, in 2013 a completely new Electoral Roll must be

compiled and this should provide impetus to improve matters. Several Trustees offered help.

*NETwork Magazine: Editorial Team*

Revd Andy Jowitt said that Issue 4 of the Partnership Magazine would focus on Great Linford and St Andrew's, but that this would now be delayed until Spring 2013. Additional assistance is needed, both to alleviate the workload on Paul Brookman and to widen editorial participation to more than just Bradwell. Volunteers are sought from the Partnership churches. **Action: Trustees**

## **6. Sharing Agreement for New Bradwell**

*Progress Report*

Revd Paul Smith said that the Methodist solicitors had now produced an amended draft of the Anglican generated document, but the proposals had only now been sent to the URC authorities for consideration. Messrs Anthony Collins, solicitors for the Baptist Church had invited SEP to instruct them with regard to negotiations, fees are payable but these would not exceed £500 without further authorisation. It was proposed by Mike Morris and seconded by Revd Paul Smith that the Secretary should be authorised to sign the relevant papers on behalf of SEP. Agreed *Nem.con*.

Further fees would be required by the other denominations --- in the case of the Anglican solicitors probably of the order of £700.

The Chairman said that it was his understanding that funds were retained by New Bradwell Methodist Church Council to be able to pay the costs of a Sharing Agreement, at least from the Methodist side. However, Revd Paul Smith agreed to approach the Methodist Church Council to ask whether they would be willing to help fund the legal costs of the other denominations towards establishing the Sharing Agreement. Meantime the Treasurer agreed that SEP could underwrite expenditure until reimbursement at a later date.

Revd Paul Smith believed that no substantial changes were needed to the draft document subject to legal advice. Trustees agreed that there was no need of a Third Schedule, the feeling being that Clause 8 was sufficient provision for the equivalence of all authorised Ministry, and each following the discipline of their own denomination. Revd Andy Jowitt endorsed the concept that the agreement should be permissive rather than restrictive. Mike Morris supported the view that the document should be as loose and adaptable as possible.

Trustees confirmed their desire that a full Sharing Agreement should be achieved as soon as possible.

*New Bradwell Community Centre*

Adrian Prisk said that the Committee continue to make progress and that the finances are now properly in order and funds have been advanced from the Community Council. Solicitors are now trying to coordinate leasing arrangements with Milton Keynes Council.

## **7. Revised Constitution for Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership**

The Chairman said that this awaits Government decisions. Meantime he proposed to commence drafting Standing Orders that will govern the actual working arrangements for the Partnership, it may be possible to adapt those used by other LEP's or to adapt those of the Mission Partnership.

## **8. Finance**

The Treasurer referred to the three sets of documents circulated in advance of the meeting (Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure accounts, draft Budgets for 2013).

SEP is within £10k of paying its declared Mission Partnership share, but if not all churches are able to reach their target an overall loss on the year will ensue. The Mission Partnership are asking for £152k for 2013, the Treasurer recommends that an offer of 15% less than this (£129k) should be achievable, but churches are asked to make every endeavour to increase income. It was proposed by Bob Cross and seconded by Jim Billeness that SEP should offer to pay £129k to the Mission Partnership in 2013. *Agreed Nem. Con.*

The Chairman asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Maggie and Adrian Prisk for their careful and conscientious financial efforts. Trustees agreed with acclamation.

#### *Stewardship*

It was reported that the visit by Dr Julian Pedley to Bradwell Church had been very successful. His theme of 'receiving rather than giving' was well received

## **9. Reports**

### *Chairman of Trustees*

The report by Mike Morris had been circulated to Trustees (copy attached). He also wished to endorse the fine leadership message from Revd Peter Ballantine. Additionally, if members shopped at Waitrose (or use the John Lewis café) there is currently the opportunity to support the Soup Run by 'voting' with the green charity discs. The proposed special meeting with the Director of Ecumenical Mission would now be sometime in the Spring.

### *Team Leader*

The attached report by Revd Peter Ballantine had been circulated in advance of the meeting and stimulated discussion on several topics. There was general support for the idea of 'Going for Growth' (rather than managing decline) and Revd Paul Smith suggested that lay delegates to the Hoddesdon Conference might be supported by the Partnership. It was also suggested that the outcome and recommendations from the SEP Review ought to be reconsidered. Adrian Prisk said that when next a non-conformist (Baptist) minister should be appointed the problem of pension payments would now be less urgent as an interregnum of up to three years will not involve a financial penalty. The Heart FM Christmas advertising was viewed with mixed feelings; nevertheless Trustees' generally took the view of 'nothing ventured, nothing gained'.

### *Citizens:MK*

Revd Brian Howden said that the enthusiasm of the young members, particularly from Milton Keynes Academy, was rewarding and that progress was being made, especially concerning the Living Wage campaign despite the resignation of Mohammed Suleman. It is hoped that another Organiser will be in place by April 2013. He recommended that SEP should continue to be associated with Citizens:MK for at least a further year, the cost would be £500. This was supported by Revd Andy Jowitt. It was proposed by Maggie Prisk and seconded by Sandra Kennedy that membership be continued. *Agreed Nem. Con.*

## **10. Any Other Business**

### *Statistics for Mission*

The Secretary was pleased to report that all six Partnership churches had submitted their congregations information within one month of the last Sunday in October – Downs Barn and Great Linford within 24 hours! The results had been circulated to Trustees and would now be forwarded to the Denominations, to meet their requirements as far as possible.

### *Confirmation Service*

Revd Andy Jowitt relayed good feedback from the recent service where only one candidate had been baptised as an infant. The next service will be in Stantonbury, probably in May 2013, organisation and place will be by SEP. There is likely to be a space problem especially if baptism by immersion is wanted (only Downs Barn and Stantonbury have baptisteries). Maggie Prisk commented that previously Heelands Catholic Church has been used for confirmation services.

### *Good News for Young People*

The Bishop of Buckingham has invited the PCC of Stantonbury & Willen to a conversation on the above theme to be held on 14 March 2013 at the church of Christ the Cornerstone from 7 to 9 pm. We are asked to RSVP by 15 January 2013; please let the Hon Secretary know whether you will be attending so that a reply can be given on behalf of SEP. **Action: Trustees**

### *Art Exhibition and Sale at Downs Barn*

The work of a talented handicapped young artist will be displayed on Saturday 24 November 2012 between 10 am and 12 noon. Refreshments will be available.

## **11. Forward Dates**

The next Standing Committee Meeting will be on 16 January 2013 at Downs Barn commencing at 2.30 pm. The next Trustees' Meeting will be on 28 February 2013 at Bradwell St Lawrence Church at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on 18 April 2013 at Stantonbury, Christ Church.

## **12. Closing Prayer**

Mike Morris prayed that the discussions and decisions should be acceptable in the sight of God and asked that Trustees should remember Lavina Porter following her recent bereavement.