



Pearson Trust Working Group

July 2016



Meeting 27th July 2016 OSR 7:30pm.

Present: Jane Paxman, David Wiper, Michael Hampson, Moyra Jacques, George Metcalfe and Alice Helyar

Apologies for absence: Debbie Robinson.

1. Organisation of the group

Jane voted formally to act as chair of the working group and Alice voted as secretary.

It was agreed that meetings would be held on an approximately monthly basis. Jane to propose dates and arrange meetings via the App 'Doodle'. If meetings are organised with external parties regarding the church building everyone on the group will be informed.

2. Follow up from the public meeting

Notes from the meeting as taken by Neil Reid have been issued via John Hamlett's Tiny Letter. A main mail drop with the same content as the Tiny Letter minutes plus Jane's contact details for the Dropbox content information (slides from the talk) to be delivered around the village. **Action:** Moyra to undertake the mail drop before the next Wagtail.

The June Public meeting mandated the PTWG to continue with the research into the project going forwards which included:

- Investigating and establishing ownership of the OSR
- Making initial contact with key stakeholders
- Further refining the cost estimates and scope of the potential work for options 1 and 2
- Investigating further sources of funding
- Further define the option of 'no change'

3. Potential funding sources within the village to enable the work of the Pearson Trust Working Group (PTWG) to continue:

- PCC – contributing £1,000 on the condition that another group in the village matches this funding;
- Management committee for the OSR - next meeting date is unknown;
- Trustees for the OSR;
- Gressingham Fellowship;
- Parish Council; and
- Church building trust committee.



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Action: PTWG to send a formal letter to the OSR management committee/trustees requesting that they match fund the PCC. Michael proposed (George seconded) that Jane draft a letter to the OSR management committee.

Initially PTWG to continue the work with the statutory bodies to get free advice before securing the funding from village groups.

4. OSR ownership

Summary of information available regarding the establishment of ownership of the OSR. The existing documents in the church cover the period from 1938 to 1970 during which period attempts to transfer the ownership from the Diocese and Ministry of Education to the village have been made.

Jane proposed that Michael summarises the legal documents in preparation of acquiring a legal opinion on the paperwork from a solicitor. The aim would be that the solicitor will clarify the ownership of the building.

5. Other sources of funding

The PC received a document from the Communities and Local Government Department in Whitehall, which details potential funding and grants for pre-feasibility studies of between £1,000 and £10,000 for projects such as the PTWG remit. Money to be spent within 6 months or before the end of the financial year, whichever is sooner. The grant funding is for; identifying costs, viability of the project and defining the options. **Action:** Jane to investigate this funding option before the next meeting.

A second source of funding is the Architecture and Heritage Fund for buildings that have failed to find a viable re-use on the open market. It was considered that the project is not at this stage at present and therefore this funding source is not applicable.