

Friends of St Peters AGM

10.30 Wednesday 8th June 2022

Present:

- Committee: Chair: David Holmes (DH), Treasurer: Tim Hailstone (TH), Suzie Dodsworth (SD), Peter Barker (PB), Anne Worsfold (AW)
- Other Members and others: Anne Bailey and Peter Bailey, Mary Bell, Michael Bell, Mike Dodsworth, Diana Knight, Gary Larson, Alison Shaw.

1. Welcome:

DH welcomed everyone to the meeting, and also welcomed new committee members. He said that FoSP's constitution allows for eight committee members and with the current number at five, more would be very welcome. Also welcome would be members who might wish to get involved with projects.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies had been received from: Elizabeth Offord, Maralyn and David Norman, Graham Fice, Joan and Trevor Mason, David and Patricia Mountain, Teri Larsen, Mary Newman, Joan Mason, Jenny Farmer, Rosemary and David Boutle, Sue Tweed, Rokie Schiffner Heather Stramik and Jenny Harris

3. Minutes of the last AGM (1st May 2021)

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed by Gary Larsen and seconded by Mike Dodsworth.

4. Chair's report:

The Chair's report had been circulated in advance. DH reported that many of the aims set out last year were achieved, specifically:

- a) the successful photo competition,
- b) the new flagpole and
- c) the floodlights (for special occasions only).

The Friends are not able to promise funding for the more significant planned improvements to the interior of the church, namely a new toilet and kitchen, but will contribute. A plan for the long term improvement of the churchyard, which it's hoped will involve the wider community and school, is underway. After a joint meeting with PCC and David Curry, Exeter Diocese Environmental Advisor, proposals for the churchyard were circulated, and received favourable comments.

5. Treasurer's report: TH reported that receipts were around £1,000 higher than last year and payments were lower and that there was a surplus of over £2,000, with the result that FoSP was robust financially and able to fully fund the improvements to the churchyard. With 45 paying members, gift aid and Easy fundraising FoSP has an annual income of around £5,000. TH suggested that additional funds could be raised by increasing the number of members, and, in the long term, requesting legacies.

Total receipts for the year were £6,225.50, and expenditure was £3,782.28. The balance at 31st March was £13,822.93.

Anne Bailey enquired about the money in the PayPal account and TH replied that it was mostly small donations and that, since PayPal will not give FoSP a charity account it's not worth keeping and the funds in the account will be transferred to the Lloyds Account.

Mike Dodsworth asked if the accounts earned interest. TH said he didn't think so, and the amount would be very small at present, but he would check.

The treasurers report was accepted. Proposed by Anne Bailey and seconded by Gary Lawsen.

6. Committee nominations / election: All committee members are obliged to stand down and offer themselves for re-election. All agreed to re-stand and Alison Shaw suggested that there could be a block vote. This was proposed by Anne Bailey and seconded by Gary Larsen. The committee were unanimously re-elected.

7. Projects: There was discussion about various projects:

- a) **The flagpole:** Anne Bailey asked if there was a plan to have a plaque to say that the flagpole was in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh. DH said there was, Mike Dodsworth suggested on the gate post.
- b) **Cards:** SD reminded members that cards are again available to buy.
- c) **Churchyard:** there was detailed discussion around the plans for the churchyard, and the written comments from Mary Newman, Joan Mason and Graham Fice were read out and considered. Mike Bell commented on the high number of priority activities, the time frame and the costing of the plan. It was agreed that it was the important to find a balance between conservation and increasing diversity and re-wilding.
 - a. Paths - Following a question from Diana Knight, and comments from Mike Dodsworth, DH confirmed that quotes would be obtained to upgrade the paths.
 - b. Weddings - There was discussion around ensuring that the churchyard was acceptable for weddings, and that some families loved the natural look, others preferred a manicured approach. A balance will need to be sought.
 - c. Graves - It was noted that cleaning gravestones is the families responsibility, and that every effort should be made to contact the family before any work on untended graves. AW commented that there is a wealth of lichen on the gravestones that should be preserved as far as possible. (Lichen is a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and an alga). The record of graves is incomplete and John Dietz is updating the records.
 - d. Ongoing upkeep - in response to a question from Anne Bailey, it was noted that FoSP could manage the work but not be responsible for doing the work in the long term. The current cost of maintaining the churchyard is around £2000, of which £200 is a grant from the parish council.
 - e. Resources - FoSP has a small grant for seeds, but it was noted that the ground must be prepared beforehand. Diana Knight suggested propagating wild flowers domestically and transplanting to the churchyard. DH said that volunteers will be enlisted from the wider community, especially through Sustainable Stoke Fleming. The school will also be involved.

8. Fundraising: 'Stoke Fleming's got Talent', due to go ahead just before the first lock down, is planned to take place in October/ November. John Belli has agreed to produce and much of the planning is already in place.

For future projects Mike Dodsworth suggested a project around the 'church kneelers' depicting village houses.

TH suggested something based on the history of the village, and Alison Shaw said that a costume specialist was interested in the costumes depicted in the 14th century monumental brass.

9. Any other business:

- a). Alison Shaw thanked FoSP for all their work, and extended personal thanks to PB who has been a great liaison between the PPC and FoSP.
- b). Anne Bailey thanked Alison for her support of FoSP.
- c). Mike Dodsworth questioned who paid for the electricity for floodlighting the church, and whose decision it was. It was noted that this was the responsibility of the church and that it would only be used for 'high days and holidays'. Phil Elliot was thanked for his generosity in contributing to the cost of installation.

DH thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 11.30.

**Friend's of St. Peter's
CHAIR'S REPORT**

June 2022

David Holmes

This has been a strange year for me. In May last year I joined the committee when Anne Bailey retired and immediately became Secretary. Next, very unfortunately, Rokie became ill and also retired, and so I found myself in the Chair! With further retirements we were soon down to only three myself, Tim Hailstone who had just taken over as Treasurer and Suzie Dodsworth who is the only long-standing member of the committee. We have been very fortunate to welcome Anne Worsfold to our group and, as a very valuable conduit between the Friends and the PCC, Peter Barker joined the committee earlier this year.

Our Constitution allows for up to 8 Trustees yet we are currently working with only 5 so could well do with some new, young blood. Nevertheless, I believe we have made some progress since the last AGM.

- The photographic competition using only mobile phones raised some much needed funds and useful publicity.
- The flagpole on top of the Church tower gasped it's last during the commemoration of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in April 2021. FoSP was able to help organise and pay for it's replacement with a more modern and robust pole that has been proudly flying the flag during the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- Also in time for the Jubilee celebrations, FoSP managed to organise floodlighting of the Church. The old floodlights have been out of action for some years so I hope this will be a welcome sight. It is our intention, with the necessary Church permission, to make these permanent. Not to be alight permanently but to be available for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter.
- FoSP and the PCC are meeting with the Church Architect to discuss ways in which we can progress improvements to the interior – especially the kitchen and toilet areas.
- FoSP and the PCC met with David Curry, who leads the 'Devon Living Churchyards Project', to discuss ways in which we can enhance the Churchyard and make it a haven for bio-diversity as well as enhancing its educational potential and a place for contemplation.
(<https://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/actions/living-churchyards/>)
- Based on this meeting, FoSP produced some proposals that were presented to the PCC. This is a long term project and the PCC have accepted the proposals in principle. We will work closely with the PCC over the next years to put the proposals into action and will be involving other community groups such as Sustainable Stoke Fleming to help with the project.

Treasurers Report Friends of St Peter's Financial Year 2021-22

Year ending 31 st March 2022		£	2020-21	£
Receipts				
Subscriptions		3,594.51		2,825.50
Donations		1,288.50		1,008.00
Gift Aid		870.60		705.59
Other	Easy fundraising	109.58		61.33
	Paypal	362.31		525.90
	Card sales			65.70
Total receipts in this financial year		6,225.50		5,192.02
Expenditure				
	Duke of Edinburgh flagpole	3,451.80		
	Photo competition expenses	61.48		
	Web hosting	198.00		
	Sundry	72.00		
Total expenditure in this financial year		3,783.28		11,242.78
Total surplus in this financial year		2,442.22		(6,050.76)
Bank Balances b/f from last financial year				
	Lloyds	11,380.71		
	Paypal			
	Total	11,380.71		17431.47
Balances as of 31st March 2022				
	Lloyds	13,460.62		
	Paypal	362.31		
	Total	13,822.93		11,380.71

Note £117.97 of petty cash held in addition to Lloyds and Paypal bank account balance.