

Loughton Methodist Church
Minutes of Church Council meeting held on 11th July 2019

Attendance and apologies were as per the appended sheet.

- 1 The meeting opened with Rev. Sue Creighton leading devotions with psalm 145 and hymns of praise 57.
- 2 Sue welcomed Sue Judd and Paul Davies as new members of the Church Council. It was hoped that Tony Malcolm would be joining the meeting later on in the evening.
- 3 Membership of meeting was agreed as per the document with Jenna Thorne as a non voting member. Sue read the working together agreement for new members

Tony Malcolm joined the meeting at 20.09.

4 The minutes of the meetings held on 2nd May were agreed and signed. There is one typing error on 6.1 line 3 states three instead of there.

5 Safeguarding

No comments or actions. There was a reminder to sign up for the Wellbeing Course on November 2nd. Thanks were given to the team.

Life & Mission at LMC

6.1 Development Plan Update

6.1.a Mary Knapman (MK) stated that Ed Maule has joined as a new steering group member but would need to go through the safer recruitment process.

6.1.b Sue Creighton (SC) stated that the group is now looking at the next phase for the development plan, beyond 2020.

6.1.c Communication Task Group - 5 proposals were put forward from Charlotte Mckenan (CMc)

Proposal 3 – Allowing the social media groups, in conjunction with the office, to investigate Church Suite, so that they can bring quotes and their recommended ‘package’ to Church Council in October.

CMc explained the benefits of Church Suite and answered questions from the floor with concerns raised about abandoning people that do not have access to computers (Christine Watson) and what fail safes would be in place as it is computer based (Andrea Moles). Martin Howarth (MH) asked to be involved in the process along with the social media groups. MH proposed and MK seconded. It was agreed by Church Council.

Proposal 4 – Allow the social media group, in conjunction with of the office, to investigate the costs/design of a new website.

CMc explained that the old website is outdated and we need to use a website that is updated, mobile friendly, functional, efficient and easy to use. MH asked that a cost be bought to Church Council in October

Sue Judd (SJ) proposed and Jane Gooding (JG) seconded. It was agreed by Church Council

6.2 Reaching Out

6.2.a The new coffee machine is working well with people liking the product which is Fairtrade. New volunteers are being trained, as the new machine is much easier to use. The old machine has been sold to another church.

6.2.b Feedback from all that CMK is doing has been very positive with comments such as ‘brilliant’ and ‘exciting’ amongst others. This confirms that the decision to appoint CMK is good.

6.2.c In Jenna’s (JT) absence Maggie Buttress (MB) spoke about all that is happening in LifeWorks including proposals for The Hub. The changes to the latter had been presented to the property & finance committee with indicative costings. The original proposals for the ‘Pathway’ to The Hub were not practical so other options are being considered.

Jenna’s talent for writing drama is being a great blessing for LMC and it was suggested that she might consider publishing some of her work.

6.2.d There was discussion around Pastoral Visitors, and whether under Safeguarding rules, they were now able to visit their Pastorees. It was thought that they would need to have DBS certification but this will be checked with Malcolm Bell. There are still some people who do not have PVs and Andrea and her team are working on this. There are still some issues around people completing the GDPR forms and being put on the database but no-one has to be in the Year Book and people can opt out of this.

6.2.e Holiday Club will run from 27-30 August with a service on 1st September. There is to be an initial planning meeting next Wednesday 8th May at 8pm at LMC. The working title is ‘Messy Explorers – finding God, Finding Me’.

6.3 Nurturing our Faith

6.3.a We would like to encourage more people to attend Worship Consultation meetings and recognised that we need to communicate more effectively about who can attend and what the meetings are about .

6.3.b June is Bible Month but we re not starting this until 16th June and it will run until 7th July. We are to be studying Colossians and there will be services and Bible Studies relating to this.

6.4 Enriching our resources

6.4.a Martin Howarth (MH) did not give a finance report as this will be presented at the GCM on Sunday.

6.4.b Chris Beament (CB) spoke to the report (circulated) relating to the Property Development Scheme. Phase 1 is urgent particularly the replacement of the carpet in the Worship Area. Samples will be available at the GCM for people to see and comment. Phase 2 is not urgent but it is hoped to complete this by the end of 2020. It is suggested to incorporate the current cleaners’ cupboard into the accessible toilet with the cupboard being re-located elsewhere. The indicative costs for all the proposed work is £110,000.

These proposals as outlined in the report were taken as one and proposed by CB, seconded by Christine Watson (CW) and agreed unanimously.

Chris then outlined proposals from the general property report namely to proceed with the replacement of the carpet, back door security issues and evening office volunteers (DBS and a Role outline would be needed for this). This was proposed by CB, seconded by MK and agreed unanimously.

It was further agreed that the committee would look at security issues around the two back rooms in the Wesley Hall complex.

Further feedback of investigations, particularly into CCTV, would to be brought to the next CC meeting.

The appointment of Shaun McKernan as Safety Officer was approved subject to a DBS check.

6.5 Developing Leadership & Organisation

6.5.a Thanks were offered to Sharon Heather (SH) for her very valuable eighteen months as Senior Steward.

6.5.b Anne Spong (AS) has asked to increase her hours by thirty minutes each day now that the café is open earlier. This was agreed.

Glynis Reeve (GR) has tendered her resignation for later this year and a new person would be needed to take over her duties. Steve Perry (SP) is working on this.

A new management group for paid staff has been set up with SP, Stephen Murray (SM), MB, SC and MH meeting quarterly with members of staff. .

6.5 c. Nominations for CC membership were discussed. Paper nominations were received from the congregation for Stephen Perry, Peter Moles, Maggie Buttress, Christine Baker and Susan Judd. All have previously been through Safer Recruitment apart from Sue Judd whose appointment will be subject to Safeguarding. These will be presented to the GCM on 5 May. CC agreed to elect Anne Spong, Christine Whatson and Kim Schofield in their role as Safeguarding Officers and this would be shown in the Year Book; Keith Aldred, Chris Beament, David Hobbs and Mary Knapman (in their roles as stated in the Year Book 2018-19) and Glynis Reeve (in her role as Office Manager). As all three members of the Safeguarding team would be members of Church Council. CMK stated that she did not wish to be a member of CC and this was noted by the meeting. Both she and JT would be welcome to attend meetings as and when they felt they had something to contribute. The CC can elect any other members to Church Council during the year if it feels that there is not adequate representation across the life of the Church. The CC in January next year would elect representatives in certain roles and the nomination forms for others would be circulated earlier than this year.

At the GCM, post CC the following was agreed -

Nominations had been received for Keith Aldred, Chris Beament, David Hobbs, Mary Knapman and Christine Whatson all of whom currently had defined roles on Church Council and these were re-elected. Those with a defined role on Church council had been re-elected at the meeting on Thursday where it was also agreed. Charlotte McKernan had requested not to be a member of Church council and this was agreed.

Members nominated by the congregation – Christine Baker, Maggie Buttress, Peter Moles and Steve Perry were re-elected unanimously with Sue Judd (subject to DBS check) being approved to join them.

Circuit/District/Connexional Business

SC reported that Rev Femi Cole- Njie is still living in the manse due to the fact that the new house is not ready for occupancy yet.

London District Chairs are changing responsibilities and Rev Jongi will be responsible for the Forest Circuit.

Any other business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

As JAS will be away for this meeting SH kindly agreed to take the minutes.

The meeting closed with a prayer.