

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH – WEST MALLING
Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held in the Church Centre
on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Revd David Green (Chairman), John Musker (Churchwarden), Lesley Bays (Treasurer), Deb Sutch (Secretary), Becky Clifford, Margaret Moore, Canon Alan Vousden, Colin Bays, Gail Crutchfield, David Day, Isobel Macdonald, Christie Ransom, and Leo Sharp.

2. **Apologies** were received from Ralph Alliston, Anna Tunnicliff, Bruce Dickson, and Andrew Mills.

8. **Fabric**

8.4. **Capital Project and Church Centre**

8.4.1. The Chairman said that the Listed Status process for the Church Centre is continuing. The Sub-Group had provided a formal response, together with detailed research on the history of the building, and that a letter has been sent to Historic England (HE). Their reply is awaited.

8.4.2. Clare Innes explained that the history of the building and dates of alterations were supplied to HE, and a key question they need to consider is from which date the listed status would work. That's not an easy decision in this case given the varied history of the building and all the alterations made.

8.4.3. Clare noted that it would not make much difference in seeking planning permission for a change of use if it were listed, although it's obviously easier if it is not listed. It was further noted that, in the course of the research, it was discovered that the churchyard wall is not listed as we had thought.

8.4.4. Four drawings of the Residential Use Plans were displayed for PCC members. Clare wondered whether the new units could be made more attractive so that they complement the existing buildings. Although only ten parking spaces are required for the housing units, there is room for twelve.

8.4.5. Clare outlined the residents' objections which focus mainly on the extra units at the back, but also on traffic movements, and light levels, and confirmed that they would be addressed in the plans.

8.4.6. Isobel asked if the drawings can be displayed at the public meeting with the Parish Council regarding parking. The Chairman thought it was a good idea to make the wider village aware of the plans and was talking to the Parish Council about doing that. We further noted that when the Planning Application has gone in, we will write to the Churchfields residents to keep them up-to-date.

8.4.7. Subject to some minor amendments to further 'beautify' the plans by Clare and Colin Bays, it was proposed that the PCC approve the plans and to allow the sub-committee to take them forward, expediting the Planning Application as soon as possible. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Alan, and was unanimously carried. *(Clare then left the meeting at 8.25pm)*

8.4.8. In regard to the re-ordering of the Church, Alan circulated plans for a reconfiguration of the rear of the church to include a lavatory and kitchen, and suggested that it be discussed at the next PCC meeting. The PCC took note.



Chairman's signature