

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH – WEST MALLING**  
**Minutes of the meeting of the PCC held in the Church Centre**  
**on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 8.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Revd David Green (Chairman), John Musker (Churchwarden), Lesley Bays (Treasurer), Deb Sutch (Secretary), Canon Alan Vousden, Colin Bays, Becky Clifford, Gail Crutchfield, Bruce Dickson, Isobel Macdonald, Andrew Mills, Margaret Moore.

2. **Apologies** were received from. David Day, Rob Hancock, Christie Ransom, Leo Sharp, and Anna Tunnicliff.

5. **Main Item 2: Capital Project**

5.1. **The future of the Church Centre**, 2016/03-WM01 (copy available on request)

5.1.1. The Chairman presented the paper previously circulated. Given the planning consent (granted on 2 March) was now in place, the PCC was asked whether they now wish to put the building on the market for a sale or explore other avenues for its future. Clare Innes noted for PCC that the consent had a number of conditions attached but nothing that wasn't standard. Clare suggested that the property should now be put on the market with the benefit of planning permission. Andrew queried whether the number of houses to be built could be extended by a developer. The PCC agreed that it was important to place a Covenant on the site that would restrict the developer and prevent them from knocking down the existing building to build a greater number of houses on the site than the current consent envisaged. *<confidential minute removed>*. The Chairman noted that should offers be received, both the PCC and the Diocesan Board of Finance would need to approve the sale before it could be completed. After discussion, Alan proposed and Isobel seconded the motion to place the Church Centre on the market for a sale, and the proposal was agreed unopposed.

5.1.2. Given the PCC's decision, the Chairman noted that a solicitor was needed, not least to draw up the Covenant. Alan suggested that the Diocese could probably recommend a solicitor with the necessary expertise, and that they could work with the PCC to manage the sale, and with the Diocesan Board of Finance as custodian trustee. Becky recommended the conveyancing solicitors in West Malling. The choice of solicitor will be brought to the Standing Committee for approval to prevent progress being slowed.

5.1.3. Isobel noted that since there had been a break-in overnight at the Church Centre following a previous act of vandalism on Sunday, the Church Centre should now be boarded up. David Green agreed to talk to the insurers to see what their opinions were given recent events.

5.1.4. Given the site's probable sale in coming days, the Chairman asked for volunteers to form an action group to decide where activities will now take place, and to move property from the building, perhaps into the Malling Memorial Institute, or to the Vicarage's coach house.

