

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in Wanborough Village Hall
on Wednesday April 17, 2019 at 7.30 pm**

The Rev'd Stephen Thatcher opened the meetings with a prayer.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jackie Fagent, John Hewitson, Sue Hickman, Beth Morris, Pam Schweitzer, Sarah Webster, Caroline Yarnold

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

2. **The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners** – The Rector asked the meeting attendees to confirm that the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Parishioners as recorded were an accurate record of the meeting. Bill Biddell proposed and Sue Weir seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in Wanborough Village Hall, on April 18, 2018 be approved as a true record. The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the Minutes.

4. **Election of Churchwardens for 2019**

Nominations for churchwardens had been received as follows

Seale & Sands	Sue Weir	Proposed by Geoff Graham Seconded by Susie Felix
Seale & Sands	Ann Payne	Proposed by Marion Thorpe Seconded by Caroline Warburton
Puttenham	Andrew Baxter	Proposed by Rhona Conn Seconded by Cilla Batters
Wanborough	Anne Concanen	Proposed by Evelyn Gaff Seconded by Dee Bramley

Sarah Webster has announced her intention to stand down from the position of Puttenham Churchwarden and the Rector expressed his gratitude for her work.

All nominated churchwardens were happy to serve for a further term of office and were re-elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

5. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018 & Matters Arising

Jane Randell proposed that the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Wanborough Village Hall on April 18, 2018 be approved as a true record, seconded by Marcus Bateman.

The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the Minutes with no matters arising.

6. Reports

All reports are contained in the 2018 Annual Report which was distributed to parishioners at the beginning of the meeting.

a) Rector's Report – see page 3 of the Annual Report

The Rector praised the work of those individuals involved in the 'Open the Book' project at Puttenham School and stressed the importance of introducing children to the church and its teachings from an early age. This is often the only access the young children have to a church despite the entry requirements of the school for parents to demonstrate regular church attendance. Furthermore, the Rector made brief reference to the dilemma he faces at Puttenham School when non-church attending parents request a place for their children at the school. The school would not want to turn down children wishing to attend the school but conversely some parents were not abiding by the church attendance requirements of the school.

The Rector also made reference (on page 5 of the report) to the 'Occasional Offices' section and noted that traditional weddings in the parish churches were decreasing year on year and 2018 recorded the lowest figure to date.

Puttenham School House – The Rector noted that he has been made aware of the status of Puttenham School House, which is managed by a committee which supervises the letting of the property when it is not used by the Head Teacher. He expressed an interest in joining the committee and will speak further about this with John Hewitson, chair of the Management Committee.

Sands Church Extension – The Rector urged parishioners to support the project for Sands Church Extension. He admitted that initially he had not been in favour of the project in view of the parish's financial situation and could not understand the justification for an extension to primarily provide an office. However, with the expansion and success of The Shepherd's Rest Café the focus has now changed and the proposed extension would be meeting the outreach vision of the Diocese, serving as a 'staging post' for walkers following a pilgrimage route. He noted that walkers are already using the café and growing numbers of people are enjoying its use. In order for the project to go ahead, it has been agreed that one third of the finance required should be raised by 2020 via grants and fund raising events. The Rector urged parishioners to get behind the project and support fund raising events. He concluded that although there was initially controversy about the need

for an extension, approval had been given and the Parish is committed to this project.

- b) Electoral Roll – see page 5 of Annual Report.

Jane Randell reported that as of April 2019 there are 159 people on the Parish electoral roll. The breakdown of electoral roll members is as follows

Wanborough	26 (down 2 from 28)
Seale & Sands	90 (down 7 from 97)
Puttenham	43 (down 3 from 46)

The Rector thanked Jane Randell for her work as Electoral Roll Officer,

(Note – amendment to Minutes - electoral roll numbers at April APCM should read 119 - the number at Dec 2018 was 159)

- c) PCC and Parish activities – see pages 5 & 6 of the Annual Report

The Annual Report detailed the activities of the PCC & Parish during the previous year.

Outreach Committee - Of particular note, the Rector spoke of the work of the Outreach Committee which has channelled its activities into working with families with young children. The Rector thanked Helen Roche and all members of the Outreach Group for their excellent work,

Bible Study - The Rector also thanked Marion Thorpe for her work in running the Bible Study group and urged parishioners to attend one of the bible study meetings.

Parish Prayer – ‘The ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer initiative was started in the parish in 2018 and will again be followed in 2019.

Safeguarding – Sue Weir. The Rector stressed the need for everyone involved in church activities to always act in a professional manner, above reproach, and never put oneself into a vulnerable position when dealing with children and vulnerable adults.

- d) **Finance Report** – see page 11 of Annual Report and Financial Statements

Mike Randell painted a worrying picture. A Parish deficit of £12k necessitated a withdrawal of £10k from the reserve account, leaving only £3.5K. Without an injection of cash, money will run out by the end of the year. Mike Cloughley pointed out that there are currently 80 – 90 regular givers to church funds. He made a suggestion that everyone at the meeting ask three people each to consider donating regularly to the church to keep the churches going. If the churches run out of money there is a risk of closure. .

Fund Raising – The Rector thanked Bill and Bridget Biddell for running the magnificent Christmas fair at Myrtles Churchyard, raising £2,700 for the Parish.

Sue Weir urged parishioners to try to attend parish events which help to raise funds for the United Parish.

- e) **Fabric Maintenance** – see page 7 of Annual Report

Brief reference was made to the evidence of ‘deathwatch beetle’ in Puttenham Church, although it was stressed that this was not active and will shortly be rectified.

Health & Safety - it was noted that the only outstanding item currently is the need for PAT testing at The Sands.

- f) **Deanery Synod Report**– see page 10 of Annual Report.

7 Elections

- a) **Lay representatives to the Deanery Synod** – No additional nominations for representatives to the Deanery Synod have been received. Anne Concanen and Susie Felix agreed to continue as representatives to the Synod and were voted in unanimously.

A vacancy remains for a third representative.

b) Election of PCC members

Puttenham	Cilla Batters	Proposed by Rhona Conn Seconded by Evelyn Gaff
	Evelyn Gaff	Proposed by Molly Avenell Seconded by Rhona Conn
Wanborough	Dee Bramley	Proposed by Mike Randell Seconded by Jane Randell
Seale & Sands	Mike Randell	Proposed by Dee Bramley Seconded by Chris Tuckwell
	Michael Thorpe	Proposed by Elaine Whittle Seconded by Sally Cover

Chris Tuckwell, Phil Roche and Susie Felix are all ex officio members.

Nina Jex and Marcus Bateman have expressed their intention to leave the PCC and were thanked profoundly by the Rector.

8. Appointments

a) Sidespeople

The following sidespeople were announced

Puttenham	Jo Brown Anne Hesling Clive Webster Cathy Clark Sarah Webster	Rhona Conn Pam Schweitzer John Hewitson Cilla Batters
Wanborough	Jean Levers	
Seale & Sands	Mike Randell Bob Payne Stephen Bois Sue Whittle Sally Lawrence Diana Standring Caroline Warburton Audrey Bulbeck Becki / Ben Poyntz Ralph More-Morris Lisanne /Paul Maxted	Susie Felix Vanessa Chandler Mike Cloughley Lauren Whittle Jan/Caryn de Walden Brian Tout Bridget Biddell Anthony McCloughlin Sue Hickman Deirdre Scott

b) Independent Examiner for 2019 A/Cs

Jeremy McIlroy has confirmed that he is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner of the Parish Accounts for 2019/20. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Jeremy McIlroy from the Rector and the PCC.

Action: Dee Bramley

9. Any Other Business

None

10. The annual meeting concluded with a prayer.