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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 23/07/2018

Present : Jim Butterworth, Jim Butterworth, Kathleen Doidge-Harrison, Bryan Gray (Chair), Revd Stephen Pye, John Slee, Revd Keith Speck, Ray Wager

Observer: Revd Mark Houston

Apologies: Helen Armstrong

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2018 were agreed.

1. Gamblesby Chapel Project

John Slee outlined the project.

Following the chapel's 150th anniversary in 2014 and the attendance of former Sunday School women who were now parents themselves, Claire Slee set up Little Acorns - a creative children's club. As a result of its continued success, it was recognised that the chapel's facilities needed upgrading, and a proposal was put forward to re-develop the school room (Phase 1) and the chapel (Phase 2) and possibly set up a John Wesley Heritage Centre at some future date (Phase 3). Locals were surveyed and were supportive of the project; £5,000 was raised. The KO & Alston Moor Methodist Circuit donated a further £15,000 and a grant application by an appointed fund-raiser has raised a further £50,000. It is hoped that further grants can be obtained so that Phases 1 and 2 can be completed at the same time.

2. Buildings Advisor

John Slee agreed to take on the role of Buildings Advisor. He is willing to speak to church representatives but this will be a strictly advisory and not a "hands on" role.

Action: John to write a short biographical piece for the website.

Stephen highlighted the importance of Gamblesby chapel which is centrally located within the Mission Community and which, whilst retaining its Methodist character, will be an important focal point for the whole EEMC.

3. VC Memorial Plaque

The EEMC clergy agreed that the memorial plaque to Robert Beatham, which was formerly in Glassonby chapel, should be placed in Gamblesby chapel.

4. Budget

The minutes of the diocesan Parish Share pilot scheme meeting attended by Bryan, Jim and Ray have not yet been circulated. Jim circulated copies of the pro forma budget for the Mission Community, showing income and expenditure for 2017. It was stressed that this is only one year's figures. It was also mentioned that some congregations are financing their churches from reserves and that some have debts.

Stephen noted that the 2020 staffing of one full-time Anglican clergy person and one house-for-duty would be possible from the current income. It was noted that new terminology – replacing the term Parish Offer, for example – will be needed for the Mission Community. It was noted that the **Penrith Mission Area** is aiming to operate a balanced budget from 2020/2021.

Action: Jim to speak at the Annual Meeting with just the headline figures and to use the opportunity to encourage transparency. The MC aim is to be both sustainable and expansive. Jim to send the pro forma to Derek Hurton and Rick Jaques at the Diocesan Secretary's office.

It was suggested that projects costing over £10,000 should be accounted for separately from the annual profit and loss account of each church or chapel.

5. Circuit Update

The proposal to merge the KO & Alston Moor Circuit with Penrith met with some opposition. It was decided that, given the uniqueness of the EEMC, a superintendent/presbyter should be sought to be joint MC leader after the retirement of Les Wallace. Richard Teal, Cumbria District Chair, has agreed to support this application. If a superintendent minister cannot be appointed, the District Chair could act as superintendent, though this would only be a short term solution. It was felt that, at national level, Anglican and Methodists need to address the issue of MC leadership.

6. EEMC Commissioning

This will be at St Oswald's, Kirkoswald on Monday, 3 September, at 7.00pm when Revd Katharine Butterfield, will be inducted as the new joint Mission Community leader and Rector of the KO benefice.

7. EEMC Annual Meeting

This will be held on Monday, 17 September, at 7pm, at Great Salkeld village hall.

Action: BG to finalise the annual report once members of the Steering Group have had time to comment on the proposed report that he has circulated.

8. Training

Stephen has spoken to Revd Nicky Pennington about commissioning those who attended the training at Great Salkeld. Commissioning is now the responsibility of the Mission Community provided it is happy with the level of training and safeguarding.

Action: To be discussed with Katharine at a staff meeting.

9. 'Critical' Friend

"Parked" by agreement with the Archdeacon.

10. Finance

RW gave the current balances in the Messy Church, Godly Play and Easter & Christmas Journey accounts, all of which are healthy. It was felt that a co-ordinated approach to the funding and payment of ministerial expenses was needed. The MC's general fund is getting depleted and arrangements need to be made for ongoing funding of the MC.

Action: Ray and Jim to discuss

11. Quiet Day – 19 October 2018, Melmerby VH – A Day of Reflection and Refreshment

The suggested theme (see Minutes of the May meeting) is Facing the Future, with a focus on personal spiritual growth and growth in community.

Action: Kathleen to prepare an advertisement for circulation to PCC secretaries and chapel stewards and Stephen to ask Bishop James Bell to supply a couple of lines of text for this.

12. Communications

Forthcoming events – Katharine's induction and the EEMC Commissioning, The AGM in September and the Quiet Day in October.

Action: JB to notify KO churchwardens, KDH to notify Cross Fell churchwardens, RW to notify chapel stewards. KDH to speak at the AGM to recruit a small team to co-ordinate communication.

AOB

- Diocesan buildings strategy questionnaire – **Jim and John to prepare something for the next Steering Group meeting.**
- Specialisms – what can each church offer?
- Great Salkeld Parish Offer – **Jim to draft a response to their PCC's letter and Stephen to speak to the treasurer**
- Dementia Friendly Churches – the Steering Group supports the initiative suggested by Joan Wager

Date of next meeting: Monday, 13 August, 4pm, at Langwathby Methodist Church.