

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT
2.30pm ON THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2025 AT THE RECTORY**

PRESENT: Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Mike Noakes (**MN**) (Warden), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden), Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jane Moggridge (**JM**) (Secretary), Russell James (**RJ**)

1. WELCOME

MM welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer)

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Church Committee meeting held on 4th February 2025 were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Gartside Solicitors & Sandra Ireson Will

The final distributions are due to be made to each beneficiary shortly. Grosmont Group of Parishes will receive the funds and appropriate plans, for the use of these funds in the Benefice in memory of Sandy, will be drawn up.

Action: JF/MM

(b) Ministry Area Update

The last meeting of the **NMMA** was held on 18th March 2025.

No decision had yet been made about the Law Commission consultation paper relating to burial and cremation law in England and Wales.

A Ministry Area leaflet had been produced and sent to all churches. Various outing and events were being planned to encourage participation from all churches in the **NMMA**. A proposal had been put forward that between 29th May and 8th June churches could be open for up to two hours each day for reflective time. It was agreed that, as St Nicholas was open every day, we could take part in this but that we would not have the personnel to man it. It was agreed that we should get a church stamp for a Pilgrimage Passport. It was suggested that a competition for a stamp design might be held for the children in the village. This was agreed.

Action: KF

(c) Organ

A contract for the works by David Wintle had been signed and the initial deposit paid. Works were due to start on 6th May 2025. Preparation for the work had been discussed, and it was agreed that Mr Wintle should be given a key to the vestry. A safety notice should be put up on the premises.

RJ thought that it was important to have some form of written history of the organ placed inside and the brass plaques updated.

Action: JF

(d) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that he had received a WhatsApp message from Anthony Thomas to say that there is still no sign of movement or end date from Monmouthshire Planning. **JF** told him that he would alert the CiW Property team so they could respond quickly when development

work does start. It was agreed to clear the graves and churchyard wall from the gate to the exit by Alma House. **MN** to contact Jamie Edwards.

Action: JF/MN

(e) Friends of St Nicholas

There was discussion on this, and it was agreed to try and put something in place as it was becoming increasingly difficult to cover a lot of the tasks involved with running the church. Many people in the village might not attend services but were involved with the building through use of the nave. If they were able to help with some of the practical issues it would be extremely useful. It was felt that it was particularly important to get the initial contact correct. As a first step **KF** agreed to talk to Grosmont Events as they had put in place a volunteer group.

Action: KF

(f) Publicity

After discussion it was agreed that publicity relating to the church was not very structured. Information was sent out by Mary Heading in the NMMA Newsletter and on their website but that was to a limited audience. **KF** said she could put information on the Grosmont Noticeboard Facebook page, but it did not stay there long and at the present time there was no village noticeboard. The new Village Website is due to go live soon, and we should have a church page on that. It was agreed to wait and see if that presented us with a platform. In the meantime, **MM** said she would talk to Mary Heading about St. Nicholas information on the NMMA website.

Action: MM/JM/KF

(g) Replacement of Pews

MM told the meeting that she felt it was time to look at replacing some of the pews with chairs. This would create a flexibility in the seating that could be used to reflect several types of services and events. She explained that to begin with it would only be 50% of pews that would be replaced and that these could be distributed around the church for the time being. There was agreement on this, and the first steps would be trying to find the right type of chair. **JM** said she would try to do some work on this by visiting other churches. It was acknowledged that fund raising would be required and that people might like to sponsor a chair.

Action: MM/JM

5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD

- It has not been possible to contact JM Jets about returning to clear the North Chancel roof. **KF** to follow up on this.
- Alistair McGowan has cleared the vegetation from the tower. Our thanks to him for his generous support. A gift has been sent.
- Jamie has burnt the big bonfire and one of the compost bins has been cleared by Witek Mintowt Czyz.
- The Maintenance Plan has been finalised and is ready to be signed off.
- Grosmont Events asked for storage in the church whilst the Town Hall is being renovated and a village cross party group moved the items and created further storage space. The roof above the toilet was also cleared.
- A Tap and Go machine has been installed in the nave for visitors to donate. Thanks go to **JF** for all his work on this.
- Six hundred litres of oil were ordered through the Village Oil Consortium and delivered on 4th April 2025.

- A list has been drawn up and circulated outlining the Wardens' duties undertaken and contact names of our maintenance people in case of emergency or break down.

Action: KF

6. SOUND SYSTEM

The Sound System was working but the Loop System was still faulty. The question as to whether the system needed to be on all the time has still not been resolved. **KF** said that she would set up some training sometime after a service.

Action: KF

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (REPORT ATTACHED)

A summary of Cash Receipts and Payments for January to March 2025 were presented. It was reported that the Parish Share had increased by 5% for 2025 and now stands at £3,198 per quarter. Our planned giving and other regular collections should allow us to cover this for the year. We rely on one-off donations and other receipts to make up the other costs. The Tap and Go machine has almost covered its cost within 2 months which augers well for the future.

Action: JF

8. WARDEN'S REPORT (REPORT ATTACHED)

This had been covered under Item 5.

MN thanked everyone for their help and support over the last few years.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

There was nothing to report.

11. MINISTRY MATTERS

MM informed the meeting that from May the 4th Sunday Service would be lay led. It would be an informal service.

Youth Work - Emily Bailey had been working with **MM** at Cross Ash School once a month.

The Craft and Lunch held at Skenfrith had been a great success with good feedback.

Holiday – **MM** also informed the meeting that she would be on holiday from Monday 21st to Saturday 26th April 2025.

12. AOB

(a) Archery – **CF** informed the meeting that it was unlikely that there would be any more archery in the nave as suitable insurance could not be found.

(b) AGM (Vestry Meeting) – **JM** asked if she could use the central mailing list to send out the agenda and nomination forms for the Vestry Meeting. This was agreed.

13. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Church Committee to be decided after the AGM on 4th May 2025.

At 4.20pm the meeting closed with the Grace.