

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NICHOLAS CHURCH COMMITTEE HELD AT
2.30pm ON WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE 2025 AT THE RECTORY**

PRESENT: Revd Mary Moore (**MM**), Karen Farr (**KF**) (Warden), Chrissie Farr (**CF**) (Warden), Jane Moggridge (**JM**) (Secretary), Jeremy Foster (**JF**) (Treasurer) via ZOOM.

1. WELCOME

MM welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Church Committee meetings held on 17th April 2025 and 4th May 2025 were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Gartside Solicitors & Sandra Ireson Will

The legacy monies have all been distributed by the executors. Grosmont Group of churches have invested their money, and the four parish churches have agreed to allocate some of that money to supporting the Youth Work of the churches. The remaining money will be divided between the churches, and each has agreed to identify a specific item or project which will be named in memory of Sandy.

A meeting of all the beneficiaries will be arranged soon.

Action: JF/MM

(b) Ministry Area Update (Report Attached)

The last meeting of the **NMMA** was held on 25th June 2025.

The Rector had had informal discussions with the leader of Beechwood **MA**, and they had agreed to advertise and support each other's events.

There was discussion on whether the **NMMA** should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. That was agreed but it was suggested that more time was needed to settle into what was in place at present and that any change should come at the beginning of the church year on 1st January.

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

Diocesan Conference Elections - each **MA** is entitled to nominate six Members to serve until 20 June 2028. It was agreed that nominees would be sought at the **NMMA** AGM scheduled for 22 July 2025.

Suggestions were made that all members of Church Committee should hold DBS but as currently not all those holding roles within each church has a DBS that was seen as the priority for now.

There was a discussion about services on the fifth Sunday of the month. The original idea was that there would be one Ministry Area service, rotating around all the churches. There is still a Ministry Area service, but individual churches are still holding their own services. It was agreed that starting in August, St Nicholas would not be having a service but would promote the Ministry Area service, wherever it was being held.

Action: KF

(c) Organ

The organ repair and overhaul was formally completed on 23 May 2025 and the organ is now re-installed and fully working. A concert has been arranged in the church on 29th June to celebrate this. Wintle Organs (Tuning) have been paid in full.

Action: JF

(d) Planning and Development of the Post Office

JF reported that he had messaged **AT** but that there was no further update. The item relating to parking for the main Post Office development is still undecided. Mention was also made of the section of wall newly created when the wall at the back of the garden was pulled down. This had been built on church land. **JF** said he would mention this to **AT**.

Action: JF

(e) Friends of St Nicholas

KF reported that she had spoken to Grosmont Events about joining the volunteers' group and they had agreed to discuss this at their next meeting. It is believed that the group is now called Grosmont Volunteers and members have already been helpful in the church. However, there were only a limited number of names on the list, and it was agreed to confine requests for help to Grosmont. **KF** suggested that we should put out a request for someone to take on some of the roles involved in maintaining the church building and churchyard. It was thought that this might be too specific, and it might be better to start off with a particular task, for example ask for people to help clear up the churchyard. It was agreed to arrange this for later in the year.

Action: KF/CF

(f) Publicity

The village website had gone live but as yet **MM** had not received any information. **JM** agreed to contact the Clerk to the Council and find out what should be done. **MM** said that she wished Carli Porter, in her new role as administrator, to take on the publicity for the Grosmont Group of Churches. It was agreed to wait until the website was sorted out and all the information on that was correct and up-to-date and then co-ordinate the publicity, making use of the **NMMA** Website, the new Grosmont Group Facebook page, Grosmont Noticeboard Facebook page and posters.

Action: MM/JM/KF

(g) Replacement of Pews

JM reported that she had visited churches at both Ross and Peterchurch and had sent photographs to members of the committee. She had still not been able to talk to the contact at Dorstone. After discussion it was decided that after establishing whether the chairs could have upholstery, if a faculty were needed and the costs involved, initially ten chairs would be purchased and sponsorship sought for these. **MM** to contact Mary Heading and **JM** to establish contact with Dorstone.

Action: Committee

5. MATTERS RELATING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND CHURCHYARD

JF reported that the Church Maintenance Plan was in the process of being completed by himself and **KF**. All regular maintenance and annual certification was under control as was the routine annual schedule. Work on clearing gutters is done and the vegetation removed from the tower. The majority of "immediate" and "short term" remedial work from the Quinquennial Report of 20.12.22 has been completed. The repairs needed "within five

years" have been mapped and will be monitored using a 20-point maintenance guide set out in the Report.

There are no current needs or plans for any major repairs. A minor repair item is to paint the railings leading from the church gate.

Action: JF/KF

6. SOUND SYSTEM

KF said that she had not had time yet but 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 to 25 June 2025 was presented. We are just about able to cover our Parish Share. Another large expenditure has been the insurance at £2,398 pa. Our regular giving, loose plate and donations are steady, but cash remains tight. Before donations etc, we are running an estimated deficit on routine church running costs for the full year of c. £2,000.

Eventually the church will need to do some fundraising but as we have recently raised money for the organ it was thought it would be best to wait for a little.

KF is still waiting for the new debit card.

The question was asked as to whether it would be a sensible idea to get a hand dryer for the lavatory. It was thought it would save money on paper towels eventually. This was agreed.

Action: JF/KF

8. WARDEN'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

There was nothing to report.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

JM reported that she would be doing Part B Safeguarding Training for Bellringers on 15th July. She had previously completed Part A Safeguarding Training.

Action: JM

11. MINISTRY MATTERS

MM reported that Carli Porter had been recruited as a part-time Administrative Officer to help with the publicity for the four churches. She would also have other duties.

Youth Work -There would be a meeting on the 1st July in St Nicholas for families to put forward ideas as to what activities they would like to put on for the children.

MM also informed the meeting that she would be on holiday from Monday 14th July to Monday 28th 2025.

12. AOB

(a) Table Clothes – JM asked if new tablecloths could be bought for the church. This was agreed.

Action: JM

(b) Bookings – As the Town Hall was out of use there were extra bookings for the church and the nave and JM asked that she be informed of any possible bookings so she could check that the date was free.

13. CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting of the Church Committee would be 27th August 2025

At 4.15 pm the meeting closed with the Grace.