

*Minutes of Monday 25TH of March 2024*

**Present:** S Gates L Ellis S Dunce C Scott B Ball

 N Matthews H Hartshorn N Lomas I Shemilt  A Jones (Clerk)

1. **Apologies** Cllr L Jones R Brace S Dunce L Sudbury K Lawrence
2. **GLT Presentation** (Uploaded to website in minuets section**)**
* No questions or feedback was given to GLT.
* Upload to website in minutes section for March 24.
1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial interest**

None

1. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting 26th of February 2024.**
2. **Review of Actions**
3. Community Park – Chase funds – Cllr L Jones has advised it will be paid WC 04/03/24.
4. Copley Woods Regeneration - L Sudbury to present.
5. Council to have the sale agreed with a lawyer and look to get the land valued as last price was from 2023.
6. **Planning**
* South Gower Rugby – No issues
* 43 Long Ache – Refused by planners already.
* 7 Pyle Road – No issues.
* Enniskerry, Regit Lane – Does not say it’s a duo balcony. Potential overlooking of Mansel Drive homes.
* 26 Whitestone Avenue – Mixed response from planners. Potential overlooking to Pyle Road homes.
* 18 Eastlands Park – No concerns.
1. **Accounts for Approval**
* Approved February 2024
1. **Precept Statement**
* Council agreed to put article on website and share the link.
* Council also agreed to print it in the newsletter.
* Annual report to be issued late May/Early June.
1. **Rev Andy Walker Update**
* Do the council want to look at purchasing the chapel via levelling up grant funding?
* Concerns - Running cost of the church?
* Explore what other communities do and how that works.
* Rev Andy Walker Update at end of minuets

**ACTION**

AJ to contact Rev Andy with questions:

*How much are you looking to sell for?*

*Running cost of the chapel?*

*What repair work is needed?*

*When will it be up for sale?*

1. **HR Committee**
* HR committee went through the council health check and what is needed to be actioned. A rag rating to be given on some tasks.
* Biodiversity group needs to be developed to fit Welsh government standards.
* Policies soon be shared and reviewed. Do we hold a separate meeting sessions for councillors?
1. **Newsletter**
* Deadline for articles was 25/03/24. Get over to AJ – ASAP.
1. **RFC update and approval for Mayday/D-Day Day plans**
* Event to now last over two days with D-Day Memorial on Sunday 5th May and May Day on 6th of May.
* Military vehicle convoy/Memorial service/Re-enactment
* Planning to take place via RFC.
* All plans seem to be going well so far.

1. **Correspondence/Clerks Report**
* New CCTV being installed 26/03/24.
* Issue with dog waste and antisocial behaviour – to be included in newsletter.
* Council members to request IRP fee for working from home by 27/03/24.

 MEETING CLOSED –

Next Meeting – 29/04/24 at 19:00



Anthony Jones (Clerk)

 

Dear friends, 25th March 2024.

I write to inform you of a significant decision taken in order to secure the future of the work and mission of the Methodist congregation in Murton.

Many of you are aware that we have been reviewing our use of our two buildings, the Chapel and the Church Hall for some years. Whilst numbers attending Sunday Worship at the Chapel have fallen over time, we have experienced growth in the community groups that we offer in the Church Hall: Messy Church, Toddler Group, Coffee Mornings, Luncheon Clubs, Youth Club, and the Bowls club.

In the Summer of 2022, we communicated through an extensive leaflet-drop, and by engaging in conversations at events on Murton Green. We invited expressions of interest in working with us. We are grateful to all who responded. A decision was taken in 2022 to focus our work on one site.

Since then, we have explored various options to either move to the Chapel, using the sale / lease of the Hall to fund the required investment or move to the Hall with development costs funded through the sale or the lease of the Chapel.

Two realistic options were presented to the congregation, leading up to a meeting on Thursday 22nd February. In that meeting, and the meeting of Managing Trustees that immediately followed, a decision was taken:

To develop and enhance the Church Hall as a focus for our Worship, Mission and Outreach. Redevelopment costs of the Hall to be covered by the sale or (long term) lease of Chapel building, and through grants and fundraising.

There was a sense of unity among those present; of ‘embracing the future whilst respecting the past’ and a deep desire to retain all the benefits of the Church Hall.

The generous nature in which conversations were shared was a blessing. We have given this decision much prayer and felt a discernible sense of God's guidance.

We now have a very clear direction of travel, backed up by a strong mandate from our members. We will move across into a newly developed Chapel and Hall in the current Hall, with appropriate planning, fundraising and release of capital from the Chapel building. That is what we have now begun to plan.

One of our New Testament writers in the Christian Bible reminds us that whilst buildings are very precious to us, it is the people who are the Church: ‘As you come to Jesus, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.’ (1st Peter, Ch. 2: vs. 4-5). We acknowledge the sadness shared by the congregation and community at losing the

Chapel as our regular place of worship. This is not a decision that we take lightly, but we do so filled with hope for a new beginning.

In the coming months we will seek to share our plans in more detail with the wider community. We hope to hold a stall at the May Day Fair to share our plans for the Hall.

Having decided where the future of the congregation at Murton lies, the Chapel premises will, in due course, become available for sale. We now say to the community, ‘over to you’. Can the Chapel building be kept in some way for the continued benefit of the community? We dare to pray that this might be so!

Pending appointment of agents, please contact me if you wish to discuss any expressions of interest.

With love and prayers,

(Rev.) Andrew D. Walker.