

Southwell Minster : The Cathedral and Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Annual Parochial Church Meeting held the State Chamber on
Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7:30 pm

Notes of the Meeting

Present: the Dean (Chair), the Canon Precentor, the Canon Missioner, Mr Arwel Griffiths (Chair of Finance and Investment Committee), Mrs Vicky Thorpe, Mrs Jan Richardson, Mr Andrew Corner, Mr Nick Alexander, Rev Erika Kirk, Mrs Andrea Pritchard (Head of Finance), Canon Nigel Spraggins (Chief Officer) and 26 Members of the Electoral Roll

1. The Dean opened the meeting with prayer, and welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies for absence were noted
3. Notes of the Annual Meeting on 26th April 2022 were agreed as a true record.
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2023-2024
The Dean expressed her gratitude for all that the churchwardens undertake, particularly thanking Mrs Kathy Hocking who becomes Churchwarden Emeritus. The following people were elected unopposed:
Dean's Churchwarden – Ms Meg Maunder and Mrs Jean Jackson
People's Churchwarden – Mr David Shannon and Mrs Maggie Peel
Deputy Wardens – Mr Jamie Bostock
5. Appointment of Auditor
BHP continue to provide a good service and Chapter agreed that they should continue to act as auditors. The Dean commented that the auditors remain impressed with the way the Finance Office manages the processes and provides timely information.
6. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Maggie Peel recently appointed Electoral Roll Officer reported that the number on the Electoral Role at the end of 2022 was 247 the same as 2021. The Dean thanked Mr Gibbins for his work as Electoral Role Officer and welcomed Mrs peel to the roll.
7. To receive and consider the Annual Accounts for 2022

Mr Arwel Griffiths, Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee reported on the accounts, which had been audited and approved by Chapter. The full accounts were available on the Minster website.

The outturn for the year was a deficit of £265k.

In considering the future of finance Mr Griffiths reminded the meeting that there has been a number of years where expenditure has been greater than income. Whilst there are reasonable reserves the auditors have commented that there is 'material uncertainty' going forwards. There needs to be a focus on income through congregational giving, fundraising and visitor donation. Chapter is undertaking a Strategic Land and Property Review in part to reduce its exposure to unexpected property costs.

Mr Griffiths thanked Mrs Andrea Pritchard and Canon Nigel Spraggins for all their work.

8. The Annual Report

The detailed report (black and white) was received.

9. New Cathedrals' Measure

The Chief Officer gave an update on the progress being made. A new Constitution and Statutes have been drafted and will be available for public consultation later in the year. Chapter is very much following the templates offered by the Church Commissioners in consultation with Charity Commission. In future Chapter will be the trustees of the Charity and therefore the only formal part of governance. The College of Canons remains in place in a similar honorary capacity. The Council will be replaced by an advisory body.

10. Deanery Synod Election and Report

Robert Ridgewell was elected unopposed to continue as Deanery Synod Representative and he reminded the meeting about the role of Deanery Synod in the structures of the Church of England.

11. Safeguarding

The Dean commented that it had been very beneficial to have Ms Penny Turner join us as Cathedral Safeguarding Officer as part of a Service Level agreement with the Diocese. This has meant that the relationship with the Diocese has got closer. Safer Recruitment was highlighted in the SCiE report and thanks was expressed to all in rolling out the process. Ms Turner and Mrs Vicky Thorpe are now delivering face-to-face training. The Dean expressed thanks to Ms Turner, Mrs Thorpe and Mr Matt Spillett for the progress made with regards to safeguarding procedures over the past year.

12. Dean's remarks

The Dean noted that life is rebuilding post pandemic with children's work on Sundays, discipleship training and home groups.

She reminded the meeting that the Leaves have been voted the nation's #1 Cathedral treasure and had won a Civic Trust Award.

The Dean thanked volunteers for all of their input including those who sit on Chapter and Committees. She particularly thanked Mr Richard Vigar who has stood down as Chair of FAIC.

The Dean concluded by thanking the staff for their work.

The meeting closed with the Grace.