

**CHURCHES TOGETHER for CHIPPING BARNET**  
**Minutes of COUNCIL MEETING held at Hope Corner on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Present: John Ainslie, Penny Chambers, Bernie Cleal, Sue Day, Rev Dominic Grant, Caroline Hay, Janet McIntyre (chair), Paul Moeke, Christine Nuckey, Mark Oliver, Rev Thomas Renz, Gill Smyth.

Nine churches represented from five denominations.

Opening Devotions - Led by Dominic Grant.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Fr Tristan Chapman, Julian Desborough, Fred Hudd, Jacob Kurien, Carol Moeke and Sandra Steels.
2. **Minutes of the last Council Meeting** held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were agreed as written and signed by the chair.
3. **Notification of Any Other Business.** None advised.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
  - a. The Website still has only four pages for our churches. It was suggested we link directly to Church websites but churches, please note that some websites look very dated.
  - b. Lent Quiz was abandoned this year, but the monies raised in 2020 have been sent to Wycliffe
  - c. Three evening services were arranged in August, and were enjoyed by those who attended. Many thanks to Christ Church, St John the Baptist and Barnet URC.
  - d. The monies held from the 2019 Lent Appeal have been given to the newly-formed local CAP Debt Centre, which had its official launch in September. The CAP centre is based in Christ Church but in reality this is just filing storage space as CAP work from different centres and in people's homes. There is a counsellor five days a week in Barnet.
5. **Report from the Chair** – Janet McIntyre's report is attached. It was noted that Christmas services will need to be finalised by the second week in November to allow leaflets to be printed in time for the Barnet Street Fair.
6. **Arrangements for CTfCB future activities:**
  - a. Winter Shelter – likely to go ahead using a hotel in Finchley.
  - b. Christmas arrangements – Barnet Christmas Street Fair is going ahead on December 5<sup>th</sup>, with a café and events in Wesley Hall, a street stall, and community carols. A leaflet with Christmas services will be produced – churches are asked to give us details of their expected service times, which will go out with a caveat to check church websites.
  - c. Week of Christian Unity – January 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2022  
The theme has been created by the Middle East Council of Churches, based in Lebanon: "We saw His Star in the East, and have come to Worship Him", based on Matthew 2:2. No CTfCB plans have been made yet.
  - d. Lent starts 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. Easter is April 17<sup>th</sup> – we will decide what to do nearer the time. It would be nice to have a quiz. There was a request for joint Lent studies to be considered, which was supported by attendees.
  - e. Mission Planning – this was cancelled in May 2020, but we would hope to hold it next year.
7. **Finance** – Caroline Hay's report is attached.

Caroline mentioned that there was an error in her report. The first paragraph under the heading 'Lent Appeal' should have been updated to state that the monies raised from the 2019 Lent Appeal have been given to the newly formed local CAP Debt Centre, as agreed at the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

In the report, Caroline noted that HSBC are discontinuing the Community Account, which is the one we have for CTfCB and replacing them with a Charitable Bank Account which attracts a monthly fee of £5. Also, the HSBC branch in Barnet has now closed.

Motion proposed by Caroline Hay and seconded by John Ainslie, that we close the HSBC Community account and switch to a similar community account from another bank which will give us free banking,

the choice of bank to be made by the Exec once further research has been carried out. Motion carried unanimously.

A number of suggestions were made regarding possible bankers.

8. **Constitution** – an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes

A working group have taken our old constitution (agreed 2014), and melded it with the new Churches Together in England (CTE) template (2016), to produce a new draft. Comments have been added to the draft explaining the decisions that were made by the working group. The draft was reviewed section by section in the meeting.

**Section 1 – Basis** – largely unchanged but made more flexible by saying our outreach is for the benefit of 'the local community' rather than 'the Chipping Barnet community'.

**Section 2 – Object** - new section lifted from the CTE template.

**Section 3 – Aims** – the various uses of the word 'member' were explained and are covered in the footnote. Attendees felt that a) and b) needed to be reworded to make the focus 'Christians from local Churches' as we are bringing together Christians from the Member Churches, not the Churches themselves. Point f) has been added to reflect the importance of BCA, together with a footnote describing how BCA was formed and what BCA does.

**Section 4 – Reviewing the Basis, Object and Aims** – there was discussion around the frequency of the review, whether annually or every three years. It was noted that previously reviewing the aims had been on the agenda once a year. It was agreed to keep the review annual and was suggested that the October meeting was the best time to carry out the review.

**Section 5 – Relationships** – there was a query regarding whether there was a minimum number of Churches needed for BCA. What happens if too many Churches opt-out?

**Section 6 – Membership** – this needs to be extended to allow for termination of membership if a Church no longer meets the aims. There was some discussion around how this might arise and what steps we should take if it does. Janet will draft some wording and circulate to attendees for comment.

**Section 7 – The Council and its Membership** – attendees endorsed the working group's decision to keep the 'Council' and not to follow the CTE terminology 'Enabling Group'. It was agreed to change c) to say 'such co-options (other than Office Holders) not exceeding 25%'.

**Section 8 – Meetings and Proceedings of the Council** – the working group felt that the Council should meet more frequently so reps feel more connected to the decision-making. They also felt that having a Council meeting on the same evening as the AGM led to a very long evening. The working group proposed that we meet three times a year with the AGM in February and Council meetings in May/June and October. This was agreed. A sign in sheet will be devised where members sign against their Church and the Churches are grouped by denomination.

**Section 9 – The Annual General Meeting** – it was agreed that 2 months' notice of the date will be given and one months' notice of the agenda.

**Section 10 – Office Holders** – the suggestion to replace the Reps' Rep with a Prayer Secretary was well received. There was discussion around the scope of the Prayer Secretary and it was agreed that, for privacy reasons, individuals would not be mentioned but groupings could (e.g. 'there are a lot of elderly people in Church X who are finding winter particularly difficult' is acceptable but not 'Jane Smith is finding pregnancy difficult').

**Section 11 – Election of Office-Holders** – there was a lot of discussion around elections with the following changes agreed:

- a) After some discussion, it was agreed that there must be at least one year break after 6 years in the same role. It was also agreed that no-one should be re-elected to the same role unless they have been re-nominated, and have agreed to stand
- b) Nominations should be communicated to Council Representatives not less than 4 days before the AGM so there is time to consider the suitability of the people nominated.

- c) It was agreed that there should always be a ballot. This ballot should allow people to express their confidence in the candidates, as well as their preference if there is more than one nomination.
- d) No changes
- e) The first 'appointed' should be changed to 'elected' and the second 'appointed' to 'serving'
- f) 'Member Churches' should be changed to 'members of Council' as they are the Office-holders of the Council, not of the Member Churches.

**Section 12 – Standing Committee** – it was agreed to use the term 'Standing Committee' rather than 'Executive'.

**Section 13 – Ministers' Group** – no changes proposed.

**Section 14 – Finance** - In part c) change 'signature' to 'approval' as number of signatures may change depending on which bank we move to. The independent examiner referred to in d) is appointed for the following year.

**Section 15 – Amendment of the Constitution** – no changes.

*[Post meeting note – a paragraph was missed out from the draft that would have allowed minor changes to be made during the AGM – without it, the references to 'revised' and 'revision' in f) and g) don't make sense. This will be included in the text when recirculated, as an alteration.]*

This constitution will be agreed under the '2014 Constitution' rules – but Reps are urged to consult with their churches, and come to the AGM prepared to vote according to their church's opinions, rather than their private views. Janet is very willing to come to any church's decision-making body to explain both Churches Together and the new Constitution, if that will help.

If Council feel that some elements of the new Constitution may be unacceptable or could be better worded, the AGM may choose to reject certain aspects without rejecting the whole.

## 9. Reports

- a. Prayer Breakfasts – covered in the Chair's report.
- b. BCA and Hope Corner Community Centre – Julian Desborough's report is attached. This report was well received and council members felt it gave a good description of the activities taking place in Hope Corner and the emergence from lockdown.

## 10. Declared AOB – None declared

It was agreed that Council meetings should be alternated between Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate churches who have regular meetings on Thursdays.

John Ainslie proposed a vote of thanks to Janet and colleagues for all the work done on the constitution. Janet thanked Dominic for his valuable contributions.

## 11. Dates of next meetings:

BCA AGM: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Council Meeting and AGM: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Closing prayer – Led by Dominic Grant

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

1. First of all, thank you all for coming – and isn't it wonderful to be able to meet together again in person! In recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of visiting most of our churches to join in with a Sunday service: it has been a great time of getting to know you all. While I haven't quite managed to visit everyone yet, I hope to have done so before the end of November. It has been a joy to see people singing together, having tea & coffee afterwards, and generally emerging from Covid restrictions. Thank you all for your generous welcomes.
2. Executive & Clergy  
A special group of people whom I would like to thank are the Exec, who have given many hours to the task of creating a new constitution that is fit for purpose. I am also grateful for the unstinting support of our Clergy, who have given so much to their own churches through the pandemic and all its uncertainties, while supporting each other through the challenges it has brought - and have still made time to consider the needs of Churches Together. I am also glad to be able to report that we have a FULL COMPLEMENT of clergy at all our churches, as Rev. Sam Rossiter-Peters has moved into the St John's vicarage ahead of his induction on November 9<sup>th</sup> – and we also welcome Adele back to Barnet – she is working within the Hospital chaplaincy team, as well as two days a week at Monken Hadley.
3. Activities  
Our usual Good Friday and Easter activities were not possible – they would have been difficult, legally, but also because it was felt that we were not ready to meet together in such numbers. However, we did manage to meet together on three Sunday evenings in August, and I would like to thank Christ Church Barnet for opening its New Wine relay to all our church members, St John's for organising a Choral Evensong, and Barnet URC for their Songs of Praise. I would also like to thank all those church members who turned up to worship God together, and those who organised the services.
4. Prayer  
Prayer meetings have continued on zoom regularly each month, and I would like to thank those that have joined us, and also Penny and Carol who organised October's meeting, when I was unable to host it. Zoom (and other similar technologies) have been a lifeline for our common worship and togetherness during the last two years, and we continue to rejoice in all that we have achieved through technology when it has been impossible to meet in person. Prayer is such an important part of our family life, and I look forward to the time (hopefully, very soon), when we can meet in person for prayer.
5. Constitution  
Exec and others have spent a good deal of time on this, and we will look at the results later. We wanted to tidy up some issues around BCA membership, and we also discovered a new model from Churches Together in England, which has largely been incorporated into our new version. But for me, the biggest part of it was a renewed emphasis on the fact that it is our members (the churches) who need to be at the heart of our decision-making. While this has always been the intention, it is more difficult in practice to ensure that churches are properly consulted – and there are new protocols to ensure that they are at least invited to make decisions, and given time to understand the issues.  
The final decision on whether or not to adopt this will be taken at the AGM in February, and will use the existing protocols (where Council members will vote), but I would urge you all to make sure that the decision-making bodies of your churches are fully informed, and that you make your

decisions in the light of their wishes. If you wish, I am more than happy to attend your church meeting, to explain or answer questions.

For tonight, I would ask you to take time to discuss the document, and make sure you understand it: I would also welcome any suggestions on how to improve it.

#### 6. Future Plans

Barnet Fayre expects to go ahead on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and we will be using Wesley Hall as a venue for some of the performances, as well as craft stalls and our café. We have not yet made a decision about a stall in the High Street, but we have been asked if we can provide Community Carols towards the end of the day.

Last year we didn't provide a leaflet with Christmas services (mostly because there was so much uncertainty about if and how we could conduct public worship), but I hope it will be appropriate to do so this year. We will be asking all churches to give us details of their plans, so that we are prepared.

January will give us another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which we will hold – hopefully in person, but we know that Zoom works as a backup.

# **Churches Together for Chipping Barnet**

## **Finance Report for Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present the balance sheet for 2021 up to the current date and report on income and expenditure.

### **Introduction**

In 2021 we have again been affected by Covid-19 with various restrictions in place during the first half of the year. The Good Friday Walk of Witness and Easter Sunrise service could not happen; the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and monthly prayer meetings happened online and the August Evening Services were restricted. However, the Barnet Street Fayre is currently going ahead on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The consequence of this on the finances is that some of the expenses budgeted for will not happen.

### **Balance as at 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The net assets at the start of 2021 were £3350.40. An additional £1232.86 was held in the bank account for CAP from the 2019 Lent Appeal and £527 for Wycliffe Bible Translators from the 2020 Lent Appeal.

The current balance as at 29/09/21 is £1,835.80. This will increase as letters for 2021 subscriptions were not sent out until October and some have already been paid.

Details of receipts and payments can be found on pages 3 and 4. The AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February agreed to adopt a deficit budget for the current year.

### **Subscriptions**

The 2020 AGM approved a subscription increase of 10% with small churches paying £88, medium churches paying £165 and large churches paying £825.

The Covid-19 pandemic then struck and with finances uncertain, subscriptions were requested much later than normal and not chased. As a consequence, some subscriptions were not collected, largely due to oversights or letters not reaching the correct person.

At the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, it was agreed to retrospectively reverse the 10% increase charged last year (2020) and keep subscriptions at the lower level again this year (2021). Small churches will pay £80 for each year; medium size churches will pay £150 for each year. Large Churches will pay £750 for 2020 and a reduced rate of £500 for 2021.

Letters were sent out on 12<sup>th</sup> October requesting payment of the balance for the 2 years and the amount owed by each church is shown on page 4 of this report.

### **Barnet Churches Action**

A grant of £3000 was made in 2021 towards the work at Hope Corner Community Centre.

## **Barnet College Chaplaincy**

There is a budget of £200 which can be used for expenses for the work of the chaplaincy at Barnet College. We have not made any payments so far this year.

### **Expenses**

We have paid the £165 subscription to Churches Together Hertfordshire and £21.60 for our internet domain name and generic email addresses. Other expenses are included in the budget, including £300 for Christmas leaflets and expenses for the Street Fayre. No donation to the Night Shelter will be made as the Night Shelter is operating in a different way this year and we do not envisage holding a Day of Reflection.

### **Lent Appeal**

2019 - £1232.86 was raised for CAP which has been held for a future local job club. The CTfCB Council need to decide whether to continue holding these funds or pass them on to CAP headquarters.

2020 – £527 was raised for Wycliffe Bible Translators. As the National Lockdown came in the middle of Lent, very little was raised through the Churches with the bulk of the funds coming from the Quiz. This has been sent to Wycliffe but not yet cashed.

2021 - the Council agreed in February that there would be no formal Lent Appeal this year and there has not been a Quiz.

### **Budget 2022**

The budget for 2022 will be agreed by the Executive and is likely to be similar to the 2021 budget.

### **Bank Account**

HSBC are discontinuing the Community Account, which is the one we have for CTfCB and replacing them with a Charitable Bank Account which attracts a monthly fee of £5. Also, the HSBC branch in Barnet has now closed.

I've done some research and most other banks are still offering free accounts for charities and clubs etc, although some are not opening new accounts at the moment due to high levels of demand.

I would like to propose that we close the HSBC Community account and switch to a similar community account from another bank which will give us free banking, the choice of bank to be made by the Exec once further research has been carried out.

Caroline Hay  
CTfCB Treasurer

**CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR CHIPPING BARNET**  
**Balance as at 29/09/2021**

	<b>Budget 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Members' Subscriptions.	3,204	1,145
Coffee Stop Donations	300	
Donations		
Total Receipts	3,504	1,145
 <b>Payments</b>		
Lent Appeal CAP payment (Collected in 2019)	1,233	1,232.86
Lent Appeal Wycliffe payment (Collected in 2020)	527	
Insurance (including Christmas Fayre Stall)	100	
United Service Expenses	100	
Copying	30	
Lent Appeal costs		
Barnet Churches Action (for Community Centre)	3,000	3000.00
Barnet Churches Action (mission)	230	
Good Friday witness (expenses)	30	
Christmas advertisement	300	
Christmas carols (expenses)		
Barnet College Chaplaincy	200	
Subscriptions - CT in Hertfordshire	165	165.00
Night Shelter		
Sundries	50	21.60
Day of Reflection		
Barnet Fayre Expenses	200	
Total Payments	6,165	4,419.46
 Net Receipts/(-payments) during period		----- 3,274.46
Balance at beginning of period (incl Lent appeals)		5110.26
Bank balance at end of period		1,835.80

## Budgeted Income from Churches 2021

	Budget £	Actual £
Barnet Brookside	72	
Christ Church	425	
Mary Immaculate & St Gregory	1,250	825
St John Baptist	500	
St Mark's	135	
St Mary the Virgin, M. Hadley	135	
St Peter's	160	80
St Stephen's	160	80
Underhill Baptist	135	
URC Wood Street	72	
URC Chesterfield Road	160	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>1,145</b>

## **Hope Corner Community Centre**

Report from Julian Desborough (Secretary, Barnet Churches Action)

The centre re-opened in May and has gradually got most services and projects back up and running. Several activities have actually moved on and developed extra dimensions.

- Seniors' lunch club on Tuesdays has restarted and is attended by 25-30 people. We have also had Age UK put on Flower Arranging sessions prior to the lunch and this has proved popular.
- The Lunch in the Community delivery service has continued to 10-12 residents who are either unable to leave their homes or are nervous about coming out. We are seeking further funding for this from a local council source.
- Pilates has returned with five sessions per week, although they are operating with reduced numbers to enable distancing.
- Fixation School of Performing Arts has extended its sessions with classes taking place on Saturday mornings. Plus, in partnership with them, we have started a scholarship programme funded by the Dollis Valley residents' ground rent which gives 10 children from the estate a year's worth of free sessions (street dance, theatre, etc). Five applications have been approved and those children are due to start sessions in the next couple of weeks.
- Homework Club is running but has added specific sessions for Maths catch-up as a response to Covid-19 impact on children's schooling. We are hoping to get voluntary help from a local school and funding from a council-backed initiative.
- Art Club has also received funding from Dollis Valley residents' ground rent and the weekly sessions provided by Elaine Kelso are building slowly.
- Barnet & Southgate College have restarted ESOL classes and we have a local volunteer who has started conversational sessions in the cafe directly after the more formal class.
- Rhyme Time for mothers and toddlers is due to restart after half term and will be run by Underhill School.
- La Leche is running once a fortnight and we are planning to add a parenting course run by a qualified practitioner.
- The Community Support Project has been busy, issuing food bank vouchers, helping people with benefits queries, giving referrals to wellbeing services (particularly mental health), assisting people with employment issues and signposting training and vocational opportunities. Housing surgeries are due to restart in person this month. Ward councillors' surgeries restarted last month.
- The Prayer Group has restarted, led by Vanya from Underhill Baptists.
- The Café has started to get busier since September and we have the Crisis Food voucher scheme in place where needy people can get a free meal in the café (up to £5).
- While the Craft group has not yet restarted, we have had a local volunteer run monthly craft workshops including screen printing and tie dying.
- Tea & Tech (in partnership with Barnet Rotary Club) has not restarted as the lead volunteer has been severely affected by the Covid pandemic. We are working with Rotary in the search for a replacement, as residents are very keen for this to restart.

### New projects and initiatives

We are conscious that we have completed our first five-year plan and have met all our business targets. New needs have been identified following the Covid pandemic and the directors and management see partnerships as the principal way forward for the charity in this next phase of

operation since Hope Corner is now being recognised as the community hub for Dollis Valley and the Underhill Ward.

The first key partnership is with London Borough of Barnet (LBB), initially utilising funding from the S106 Regeneration, and then working with other agencies within the local authority.

We are due to sign a contract which enables Hope Corner to manage and administer the Dollis Valley Flexible Fund – which will provide funding for local initiatives and projects, including ones run from the centre. The fund is worth £45K over two years, from which we get a 10% administration fee. Decisions on funding will be overseen by a steering committee made up of regeneration stakeholders and local residents, separate from the Partnership Board.

We are also about to sign another contract to launch a second phase of volunteering from the centre. This will be worth £15K over two years.

Our first full vocational training partnership has been completed at the centre. Run by Cherry Tree Foundation, in conjunction with LBB, five residents from the estate plus 10 unemployed people from elsewhere in Barnet underwent training for their railway safety certificate to enable them to work for London Transport and other rail providers. A certification ceremony will take place at the centre next month. We are planning to work with Cherry Tree and LBB to provide more training opportunities.

Digital inclusion is a major issue which we are trying to address with local agencies. We have received 10 new tablets and five new laptops from the Mayor's IT Fund and are working with the digital inclusion team on a refurbished laptop library that residents will have access to. We are also planning to get feedback from residents about their digital experience since we suspect many have no or quite poor network connections. A questionnaire is planned via the next Dollis Valley newsletter.

We are hoping to partner with the CAP Money team with funding opportunities that will enable them to offer debt counselling and hopefully run a CAP money course from the centre.

We have upped our publicity, with printed fliers produced and distributed to residents on the estate. The website is also pretty much up to date. We have added a careers / job & training noticeboard which advertises opportunities in the borough and beyond.

### Improvements and finance

Finances are stable as we have received grants from local trusts, Covid-relief grants to offset loss of income and furlough payments which enabled us to keep all the staff on at full pay.

We have also received improvement grants for isolating the rear shutter door to allow groups to enter and leave from the rear of the premises; a new power supply for the coffee machine; a new water urn; a panini toasting machine; two new external noticeboards (under order).