**St Matthias Parish Council**

**Minutes 6 April 2020 7:00 pm**

**Attendance**

PB - Paul Buckley

LS - Laurie Scandrett

JP - Jane Paingakulam

JH - James Harricks

GW - Gary Wallis

AT - Alice Tricks

**Apologies**

SA - Scott Ash

**Chair**

Paul Buckley

**Opening Prayer**

PB opened in prayer at 7:07 pm.

**Previous Minutes**

2020 AGM **W20200401 - GW** Fix the spelling of LS name

20200210 **W20200402 - GW** Add missing closing time

**Business arising from Previous Minutes**

* **W20190303 - LS/PB** Start discussions with qualified people for fundraising - **OUTSTANDING**
* Notice Boards/Flags in Church **W20190903 - LS** to speak to Heather Jesserun and Brian Barnett **OUTSTANDING**
* **W20200301 - GW**  to speak with David Plaister re priorities of repairs and report back to next meeting. Builders said that $100k was needed to execute meaningful remedial works to the Rectory. In the meantime DP will execute emergency works only **DONE**
* **W20200302 -JH** encouraged to pursue best course of Prof Dev for him. **OUTSTANDING**
* **W20200303 -JH** Ministry Partnership - Anglicare/Bethany Downes. This arrangement for Bethany to be provided with opportunities to present to the congregations was endorsed. **DONE**

**Financial Report**

* **Monthly Report** - received At the moment things are holding up very well. In actuality our offertories were $15 ahead of budget for March and $4,532 ahead of budget for the year to date
* **Communication from the Diocese**  
  please note the following:

We have been advised that given the current Covit-19 crisis the Diocese has decided that (please see “Deferral of PCR payments” circular attached):  
Parishes in financial difficulty can ask to stop the automatic Direct Debit of their monthly Parish Cost Recovery (PCR) charges and instead make the payment when they have sufficient funds;  
Payment of the Church Land Acquisition Levy (2% of net operating receipts) will now not be required for 2020 and the amount paid in January to March will be refunded through reduced PCR charges over the rest of this year;  
 No PCR charge will be payable in April  
Note that the Parish Cost Recovery (PCR) charges are still payable except for the Church Acquisition Levy. However we can still decide to stop the automatic Direct Debit, but if we do that the payments will accrue.

* **Grant applications**please note the following:  
  We were advised 2 weeks ago that we had not received the Community Building Partnership 2019 grant that we had applied for ($43,815 for the new AV system) – but we have been encouraged to apply again in the 2020 round;  
   last week we applied for a ‘Saluting their Service’ grant of $10,000 – this would be for moving the memorial plaques;  
   today we applied for a Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grant of $11,236 – this is to put solar panels on the roof of the Barnabas Centre – this grant is on a ‘first come, first served’ basis and there are only 2 per federal electorate. We got in early through a heads-up from a friend at the ACPT.
* **Mill Hill Fund**  
  please note the following:  
  As at 31 December last our investment in the Mill Hill Fund was worth $305,391. We were planning to use any left over from further Building Renewal expenditure to pay off more of our loan.  
  However the recent rapid decline in the share markets prompted the Churchwardens to withdraw the money invested in the Long Term Pooling Fund (approx. 2/3 of our investment).  
   Unfortunately this realised a loss and the value of our investment in the Fund is now $272,591. However, this is all now invested in the Cash-Managed Fund.  
   Nevertheless all we have lost in ‘unrealised capital gain’, not cash we invested. But it is still disappointing.
* **Sydney Anglican Loans**  
  please note the following:  
  The Churchwardens have been proactive and have already written to SAL asking if we can go ‘interest only’ on our loan and also if they would drop their interest rate.  
  Subsequently we received the attached letter from SAL – they have already agreed to drop their interest rate from 4.25% to 3.00% and would consider ‘interest only’ payments on a case by case basis.  
  We await to hear the outcome of our request.  
   I have probably underestimated our interest expense in the 2020 budget so this is timely.
* **AV quote and Status of Building Renewal Income and Expenditure**  
  please note the following:  
  The latest iteration of the AV quote from Open Box Technology is attached. We need to decide at Parish Council if we are going to go ahead with it?  
  A copy of the latest ‘Status of Building Renewal Income and Expenditure’ is attached.
* **Australian Government Stimulus Packages**  
  please note the following  
  We should be in receipt of $20,000 under the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers measure. It is expected that this payment will be paid in May.  
  We do not yet know if we will qualify for the JobKeeper Payment. If so this would be $1,500 per fortnight per eligible employee for 6 months ( = $19,500 per employee). I have counted 8 possible employees ( = $156,000). All the $$ have to be passed onto the employee.
* AV Upgrade - Approved **W20200403 - GW** to advise David Plaister to proceed

**Business Manager’s Report**

Received

**Rector’s Report**

Received

**General Business**

* Admin Wages. Admin Staff have proposed a voluntary 75% reduction in their pay during the work from home phase. The Parish Council received this offer and thanked the staff for their generosity.
* Working from home **W20200404 - GW** to prepare appropriate Work From Home forms for staff to sign.

**Staff Absences**

Chris Holding - 13-25 April

**Next Meeting**

11 May

**Future Meetings**

8 June

13 July

10 August

14 September

12 October

9 November

14 December

**Closing Prayer**

JP closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm