

MINUTES FOR BODY TALK MEETING FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2022

The meeting was presided over by Ian Phillips. The meeting was held over zoom and at Church. There were 64 people present, apologies were received from 23. 24 Zoom accounts signed on.

LOOKING UP LOOKING IN LOOKING OUT

Loving without Limits!

So much more than Sundays!

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Worship

The meeting began with a time of worship.

Confirm minutes of meeting held on 21st July 2022

These were confirmed and signed.

August 2022 Financial Statement

The deficit on the general fund stands £ 2.7K which includes Gif Aid Claims. We have spent £ 3.5 K from the Gift Day Fund for the new dishwasher. A payment for £ 4K was made to EON, due to the flipped meter readings and increased general usage since the direct debit was first set up. We will be increasing the direct debit moving forwards to try to meet the increase in utilities, please can I ask you all to be aware as you use the building to be conservative with the power.

Budget proposal for 2023.

As Graham Poole was unable to present this budget due to ill health Lesley King presented the following: Expenditure is up by £ 4,151 under releasing people into ministry, this increase includes Children's and Family worker no longer supported by EO&M fund, Minister for Music and Worship will no longer be paid and staff salaries increasing in line with Baptist Union guidelines; a £ 5,000 reduction in Employment Allowance. Developing Ministry is down by £ 5,495 as leaders rein back on their spending. Providing Premises and Administrative support has increased by £ 2,200 but this does not include utility costs as these are still unknown. There is a Capital Expenditure of £ 5,500 from the Memorial Fund to pay for openers in the Sanctuary high level windows. We are also anticipating a £ 3000 bill to cover legal fees on our merger with Greenfields, this will be paid from the EO&M fund. Management and Administration is down by £ 5,615. The total budgeted expenditure is down by £ 4319 but this does not include any increased utilities. This budget has been presented to you as information only, we will vote on this with updated utility costs in the November Body Talk. There were no questions.

Approval of 2021 Accounts.

Ian Larkham informed the members that the Trustees Report in the Annual Accounts had been formatted differently this year and recommended everyone read it. Pages 4 – 15 covers all we do here at Crawley Baptist Church. Page 16 is the statement of Financial activities for the year ending

December 2021, showing that a small loss was made, this was due to expenditure from designated and restricted funds. Page 27 are the notes on the Financial Statement with the balances of the restricted and unrestricted funds as at December 2021. We have challenging times ahead but 'Thus Far the Lord has helped us.' Ian recommended that this report was approved. The vote was unanimous with no abstentions.

Deacons Elections

The Diaconate are made up of 12 trustees, 8 Deacons and four staff member who are trustees by nature of their appointment. The Diaconate at present are Ade Anderonmu, Ian Larkham, Graham Poole, Phillip Munt, Ben Healy, Paul Stewart, Sharon Golightly and Graham Durrant – joined by Sue Lindridge, Ian Phillips, Sandra Warner and Marian Hayden from the staff team. Deacons serve for three years after which their term comes to an end. Elections take place at the November Body Talk for whatever vacancies exist that year. A member must be nominated by three other church members using the appropriate nomination form. This year there are two vacancies; Ade Aderounmu and Paul Stewart. Nomination forms will be available from early October.

Membership

Mark Rochford and Amish Mathew were joyfully admitted into membership.

Mission Update

David Molden informed the members that Alan Michelle has just returned from Rwanda. Rachel from CAP is speaking here on 2nd October – CAP are very active in Crawley, with a Debt Centre and Life Skill courses being run, please continue to pray as the need for this is increasing. On the 4th December the family we support in Mozambique are coming to spend the day with us, and Jane Edwards who continues the work of the Burrell family has sent a video of her work. There is a quiz night on 12th November with all donations going to New Life Africa International in Kenya.

Children and Youth Ministry

Sue Lindridge began her presentation with a game on noticing the changes. The connection being how things change in our lives, and how the team have noticed changes with regard to volunteers since the pandemic. Denise Beer had a challenging week in POD with a full quota of children but not enough leaders to be safe, it is increasingly challenging to be able to sustain this group. The question this raises is 'How do we as a church and as a ministry respond to this change whilst serving our church and community and loving without limit?' Change is inevitable but our God is the same yesterday, today and forever and He can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. In the light of all you have been told, please hold CYM in your prayers.

Denise Beer then told positive stories that are happening in POD, Kids Matter and Parent & Toddlers. Sue told about the positive responses from the youth who attend RE:Allsorts.

A Kintsugi Hope course was run for the Young People, the majority of the attendees were those who went to Kenya this year, and Sue was aware conversations on difficult topics were happening with positive reactions to disagreements and exploring answers together.

Pastoral Care and support for our church family

Sandra Warner showed a video as a taster of what happens during the August Staycation, she thanked the team and was happy about the volume of numbers of those from the community who came each week.

Women's Ministry is putting together a Christmas Advent Event for the 5th December, the theme will be looking at gifts. The weekend away in January is progressing well, there are still some places available if you would like to come along. A card from Joan (Sylvia Harding's sister) was read out, Joan was very appreciative of the love and care taken over Sylvia. Kintsuge Hope was run as a twelve-week course, with some the group still meeting.

Please pray for the Welcome team who faithfully serve week by week, the challenge facing us as a church is how do we take visitors and love without limits, so they feel part of our church family. The Listening Ear Team was thanked for all the practical things they do for those who struggle to get out and about.

Greenfields update

The BU now have the minutes of our meeting agreeing to the merger with Greenfields and Greenfields have submitted their minutes to the BU Solicitors, this merger should be straightforward, but we now need to wait. A simple way for you all to engage would be to go along to the service we have with them once a month to meet and support them.

A.O.B or matters of information from teams and organisations.

Marian Hayden informed the members that she is stepping down after 20 years as a trustee on the Diaconate. She will continue to play her role in all music and worship matters. Ian Philips gave her thanks and said he is glad we will not be missing her endless creativity.

The Christmas Choir away day is on Saturday 26th November – please fill in the form and get it back by Sunday 30th October.

Richard Hayden informed the members that a group were going to the British Museum to see the exhibition about the Stones Crying Out, physical evidence of the Bible Story. They are going on 22nd October, if anyone would like to join them.

Ian Phillips encouraged people to come a little early on a Sunday to have coffee and talk to someone, or stay later at the end of the service to do the same.

Our Next Body Talk is on Thursday 21st July 2022

The meeting ended with prayer.

Signed.....

Dated