**Friends of Droxford Church**

**Minutes of the**

**Trustee Meeting Monday 16 June 2025**

**in the Community Room**

Present: June Kershaw, Tony Hoile, Sally Sturt, John Symes, Adam Sinnott, Sandy Baillie-Strong and Paul Cooper.

1. Apologises from Jeff Hooper and Welcome.
2. Reiteration of good practice.

June opened the floor to a discussion of our values. Some considered them to be a useful guide to principles underpinning FODC and for some they had less resonance. It was agreed to review them at the next strategy review.

1. Minutes of the meeting 7 April 2025 were approved with corrections to paragraph 5 in that we have a 35-day notice account and paragraph 13 where the next meeting was not an AGM.
2. Events Sub-group: The dance lessons were cancelled due to lack of interest. It was agreed to defer the Amy Baker 1950s event due to lack of ticket sales. The original date clashed with many who were interested but were committed elsewhere on that day. Clare had confirmed with Amy Baker that she was available late September and into October. Awaiting confirmation from the Village Hall that we can book. Action: SS
3. Communications Sub-group: The website had been hacked and greater security now implemented. There is a lot of technical tricky work to effect in order to improve.

AS proposed an email plan for managing communications with third parties. It was agreed for AS to explore and implement and for the Trustees to try it. Most likely the email plan would involve points of entry (rather than personal email addresses), say chairFODC@gmail.com or other addresses such as infoFODC@gmail.com etc. All Trustees could have view access and so greater transparency and to provide support and greater knowledge across responsibility areas. This would be balanced with greater freedom for the Trustee tasked with responding and it was suggested that Trustees worked in pairs associated with the subgroups to manage absences. Action AS

1. Specialist Teams: A comprehensive AV report had been received reporting on recent developments. This proposed a big increase in expenditure just for the first audio phase from £13 to £27K. Part of the increase is that VAT is not reclaimable and partly due to proposing better quality speakers. Slight phasing of the system might be possible by maybe £4K. PC will discuss with David Shepherd regarding perceived sound quality proposed in this upgrade and also ask about sponsorship and any avenues for sourcing the kit at a cheaper price. Colin Richardson will apply for another grant as a consequence of the upgrade. FODC do have unallocated funds, and it was felt that improved audio was a suitable use of our funds to meet our vision but there were concerns as to whether the increase was justified by the sound quality. It was agreed that we should endorse the proposal in principal and to seek advice and grants accordingly, but a final decision would be made in the autumn. NB check no wifi conflict with the community room, kitchen and CCTV on the roof.

 Action PC and TH to report to Colin

1. Heritage Sub-group: Copier removed and a new A3 printer/scanner. Defer to Stephen Reynolds for access.
2. Update on others:

PCC – The PCC had received funds recently relating to the radiator flushing and electrical testing directly from DCH contrary to the licence and Joint Agreement. ABS had questions on the provisional DCH accounts and would follow up. Action: JS and ABS

Deanery – Jill Kingston had been licenced earlier today. She had emphasised that she only wished to concentrate on pastoral care. The following email had been received:

Dear Sally and Team,

It’s lovely to hear from you and I already know all the amazing work you do to support our beautiful church. I’m really looking forward to meeting you all and working together. Looking forward to seeing you all soon

Warm Wishes

Jill

Rev Jill Kingston
07352 459355
I have a part time post. My usual days off are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Wilfrid’s Cafe – No update as this meeting was for focusing on FODC.

Bellringers – The works had been completed and the bells ring very sweet. There is a recruitment drive.

1. Proposed new Sub-group: It was agreed to create a new subgroup for café monitoring.
2. Finance Sub-group: A financial report dated 16 June had been circulated and noted healthy finances.
3. Building Sub-group: Notes by the JFG dated 28 April 2025 had been circulated and there were no heating notes.
4. Strategy review:

It was proposed to conduct a RAG review in a relaxed setting, maybe a pub lunch.

 Action: no trustee allocated to arrange this?

1. AOB:

The latest developments had been circulated. The planning application had been formally refused, and a new application was needed to satisfy conditions 6 and 7. TH to revert to the original archaeologist and also suggested to enlist Danny Lee’s support. Action TH to proceed

14. Date for the next meeting: on Monday 15 September 2025 in the Community Room.