

PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Annual General Meeting 2021



TIME & DATE: 7:30pm Wednesday 13th January 2021

VENUE: Zoom Conferencing

Chair Carolyn Barton

Attended: Carolyn Barton, Ivan H-T, Josh Thomas, Will Hughes, Jenny Ballinger, Christine Tully, John Callaghan, Jennifer Parkes, Mike Harris, Stephen Field, Brian Edwards, Richard Saunders, Lindsay Clegg, Amanda Greenlee, Peter Hollins, Madeline King,.

Purpose of meeting:

Review & accept annual reports and elect officers for the coming year.

1 Introduction, Bible reading and prayer

Carolyn opened the committee meeting with a devotion adapted from a URC Daily Devotion by Rev Martha McKinness from November 2020.

The reading was Hebrews 12: 1-3, 12.

2 Apologies for absence

Amanda Greenlee, Simon & Helen Mason, John Studd.

3 Minutes of the last AGM (15th January 2020)

Minutes available at <http://www.pact.org.uk/pact-minutes.asp>)

4 Matters Arising from Minutes

Some minor typos need correcting, then needs to be uploaded to the website minutes repository as is not currently there.

5 Chair's Report - Carolyn Barton

Thanks recorded for Christine Tully, Ivan Huntington-Thresher, Will Hughes and Josh Thomas.

Will Hughes was wished good luck in his new role as Arch-Deacon

6 Treasurer's report– Christine Tully

Accounts same as draft accounts from November as nothing has changed due to the different Carol Service and Christmas Lunch arrangements. Most expenses are incurred during first 6 months of the year.

No subscriptions will be collected from members this year.

The Prayer Space donation is an outlier as most donations were received in the previous year, only one Hope Church donation received late is recorded in this year's accounts.

Christmas Lunches happen between the end of the PACT financial year and the AGM, so it is an oddity that the Christmas Lunch accounts are usually for the Lunch before-last.

7 PACT Partnered and Linked Groups Reports (see Annual Reports attached)

- Christian Aid report to be added to the reports. Intent to apply for a new collection licence in anticipation that it might be possible to do a street collection in May.
- Homestart Butser Training courses all moving online.
- Food Bank is now an official Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in its own right, Terry Doubleday is the new Chair of Trustees, other committee members are Trustees.

- Petersfield Voluntary Care Group also now a registered charity and have launched a new website.
- **ACTION:** All Member churches and partnered/linked groups were reminded that they each have a dedicated webpage that they can supply content to populate. (To Steve/Jan)
- Training will be provided later in the year to enable groups to update their pages directly.

8 Elections:

- PACT Chair Josh Thomas
- PACT Vice Chair Ivan Huntington-Thresher
- Treasurer Christine Tully
- Secretary Ivan to continue for now, will train next volunteer when someone identified.

9 Future Meetings & Events

- Unity Service date and format – want to do something over Zoom, perhaps by end of Feb rather than Christian Unity Week as normal.
- Next committee meeting (Date TBD, by Zoom) – February 24th.
- Easter – Petersfield Post page again? Just one page Easter Advert. Need to select a card/image, either the unused one from 2019 or run a new competition.

10 Any Other Business

- Use of PACT Logo by Partnered and Linked Groups
 - ** Petersfield Voluntary Care Group granted permission to use PACT Logo.
- Constitution Update
 - See attached Annex for assessment by Tim Concannon
 - Unless a different beneficiary is explicitly defined then legally any residual funds (in the event of a wind-up event) would pass to the closest organisation following the basis defined in our constitution. This is currently likely to be a regional or national 'Churches Together' organisation.
 - Clarification was sought on who counted as voting 'members' for the purposes of initiating a wind-up event.
 - Members are the churches
 - How or from whom their 'vote' is obtained may differ from church to church according to the way their governing is run and/or constitution defines this.
 - For simplicity it is possible for a church to delegate their vote (for the purposes of PACT matters) to their authorised PACT Rep. This delegation would have to be granted by the same authority.
 - Update of the constitution will be progressed at the next committee meeting.

11 Close

The meeting was concluded by sharing of The Grace.

Annex – Constitution Review

From Tim Concannon

Back in September I was asked to look at what would be required to dissolve PACT if it was considered advantageous to do so – largely with a mind to fitting in with wider associations by forming a new body which is capable of fitting into the wider picture

It is not a difficult question as PACT is not, itself a charity. Annexed hereto is our constitution.

In these circumstances, should the Committee decide for whatever reason that it is necessary to dissolve the organisation, it can call a Special General Meeting (SGM) to put the decision to its members. In order for the decision to dissolve to be valid though, you must act in accordance with your constitution at all times. Although the content and detail of constitutions can vary significantly, the below provides an overview of how the typical dissolution process is conducted.

1. At a meeting which must be quorate and minuted, the Management Committee will decide by majority to call an SGM for the purpose of dissolving the organisation. Your constitution will detail whether this is a simple or two-thirds majority etc.
2. Assuming a majority decision in favour is reached, an SGM must be called. Typically this will require you to give members at least 14 days' written notice detailing the purpose of the meeting. The notice period will vary from constitution to constitution but is typically either 14 or 21 days.
3. At the SGM the resolution to dissolve the organisation will be put to the members. The meeting should be quorate and minuted. Should the members agree (the majority required will be specified in your constitution) the decision to dissolve the organisation can then be acted on.
4. The assets of the organisation will then be distributed in line with the constitution and the bank account closed. The dissolution clause may mention a specific organisation to receive the assets or it may simply state that an organisation with similar aims and objectives should be the recipient. If we were to dissolve and re-form that would be the way forward.

Tim Concannon

12.1.21



Petersfield Area Churches Together Constitution

Basis

The basis shall be that of the “Churches Together in England”, namely: “Churches Together in England unites in pilgrimage those churches in England which:

- Acknowledge God’s revelation in Christ
- Confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures
- commit themselves, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Association

PACT shall be associated with Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Objectives

- a) To seek every opportunity to worship and work together in united witness and service to the community.
- b) To work towards deeper commitment and fellowship between Christians.

Membership

Membership is open to all churches in the area of Petersfield and in the neighbouring villages.

Structure

- a) There shall be a Co-ordinating Committee consisting of one of the serving clergy, ministers or leaders, together with one appointed lay representative from each participating congregation. In the event of unavoidable absence a substitute is allowed for both ministers and lay representatives.
- b) The Chair will take office at the first ordinary meeting following the AGM and he/she will have been the previous year’s Vice-Chair.
- c) The Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the AGM. The Immediate Past Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be ex-officio members of the Committee. The Immediate Past Chair will be a member of the Committee for two years after the end of his/her term of office. If nominations for Secretary, Treasure or persons to fulfil other aspects of the work of the Committee cannot be found from within the Committee, then they may be co-opted. In the event of a vacancy occurring in one of the above positions, the Co-ordinating Committee is empowered to make a temporary appointment until the next AGM.
- d) The work of PACT may be carried out by working groups to fulfil specific objectives as identified by the Committee. These groups will report back to the Committee as appropriate.

Meetings

Meetings of the Committee will be held at regular intervals throughout the year. Additionally an AGM shall be held at which accounts shall be presented, officers elected and reports presented. Other open meetings shall be held in response to current issues as and when appropriate.

Finance

Each participating congregation shall be expected to contribute annually towards the expenses of PACT as determined by the Committee

Updated 11.03.04