

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Tresham Church Committee at 7.30pm, 27 February 2024 at Talbot Court Farm

Present: David Bradbury, Richard Goodenough (chair), Rev Lesley Hewish, Mary Kingston, Simon Lee and Susan Whitfield

Apologies: Janet Bradbury and Kay Pettifer

	Action
1. Minutes of last meeting held on 6 February 2023 were approved and signed.	
2. Matters Arising	
a. RG had established from Ecclesiastical that there is no requirement to photograph contents and building features for insurance purposes, although RG has several.	
b. Quinquennial Inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It remains difficult to clarify ownership of the land and walls and what rights of way exist. It is possible that the path up to the church is on County Council land. ii. Further work following the quinquennial inspection is expected to be done soon. 	
c. The designated area for cremated remains is a work-in-progress, there being some discussion about the wisdom of having horizontal tablets.	
d. The electricity contract was renewed with SSE using Parish Buying Scheme as agents.	
3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts	
a. RG summarised the financial position. The General Fund made a small surplus of £366 thanks to an increase in Fees £318, Collections £277 and Donations £239; whilst payments were higher overall due to professional fees £906 these were offset by a lower donation to GARAS £135 and lower electricity costs £172 assisted by a government grant of £150.	
b. Our total worth stands at £47, 734, up £6543.	
c. The Report and Accounts were approved .	
d. RG to publish the Report and Accounts on www.tresham.org.uk and www.achurchnearyou.com websites.	RG
4. Budget for 2024	
If the Parish Share plus a contribution to administration and travel expenses are to increase (see item 6) we are projecting a deficit of about £400.	
5. Bob Rowley's Noticeboard	
Bob Rowley has made a magnificent new notice board by the church gate and RG will draft a letter of thanks.	RG
6. Donations to Charities	
Only £40 was collected for GARAS at last Christmas Carol Service. We hope to promote it better this year.	
7. Parish Share	
We have been requested to increase our share by 7%, to make an extra contribution of £200 and to make a contribution towards clergy and administration expenses, altogether additional costs of some £300. In view of the surplus on the General Fund it was agreed this could be afforded this year. Next year's contribution will have to be reviewed in the light of our results for 2024.	

8. Fundraising		
a. It had not proved possible to hold a fundraising event in 2023. A photographic competition and/or exhibition was considered.		
b. SW thought she could approach a few people for a regular donation.		SW
c. Tresham Church could be used for small weddings providing couples meet the qualifying requirements: a close relative in the benefice or attendance at services. A note could be put on the website advertising this.		SW
9. Office Elections		
RG will continue as Treasurer and Philippa Ellis as Independent Examiner. Both RG and PE were thanked for their contribution.		
10. Other Business		
a. The programme of services has been updated is on the website and JB provided the flower arranging schedule.		
b. Thanks were expressed to SL and Bob Rowley for cutting the grass and brush in the churchyard and to others who carry out cleaning and maintenance in the church and churchyard, particularly SW.		
c. RG had discussed with SW extending the guttering along the South facing wall so that the unsightly water butt could be moved round the corner. RG is obtaining quotes for this and also for extending the guttering round the rest of the church.		RG
d. SE suggested having a bench in the churchyard. He will find out the price for a similar bench to the one he obtained for the village pound. Hillesley and Tresham Parish Council might well provide a grant, for which RG would make an application.		SE/RG
e. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.		