

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the East Coker PCC held at The Chantry, East Coker at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 6th October 2025.

Attendance

Toffer Beattie (TB) – Churchwarden (Chair)
Gillian Smith (GS)
Rob Boyden (RB)
Pauline Gubbins (PG)
Sheila Studley (SS)
Winky Beattie (WB) (Acting Secretary)

Apologies

Rev Philp Macaulay (PM)
Luke Shepherd (LS)
Christine Vince (CV)

Agenda

The meeting had been convened to consider 3 items and to vote on resolutions related to each.

1. Project Beacon – Final Faculty Submission
2. Proposed faculty for new lighting
3. Grant for conservation reports

With 6 PPC member present the meeting was declared quorate.

Those unable to be present had each sent messages to the Chair expressing support for the resolutions.

Item 1 – Project Beacon Final Faculty Submission

Discussion

The Chair showed the meeting the latest drawings. He outlined the minor changes that had been introduced since the previous PCC meeting. There had been a slight change in design to the north entrance, and it had been decided not to include the move of effigies in the main submission as expert/conservator advice was needed (see item 3 below).

The chair gave an overview of the Statements of Significance and Needs and outlined the DAC timetable.

Resolution

Motion

That the proposal for the Project Beacon Full Faculty be submitted to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for consideration by the Diocesan Chancellor.

Voting

Proposed by: RB
Seconded by: PG
Votes in favour: 6
Votes against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Outcome: Carried

Item 2 – New Lighting Faculty Submission

Discussion

The Chair shared the plan for a new lighting scheme prepared by Heritage Lighting Matters. He explained that it had been decided to break this element out of the main faculty proposal so that if the main proposal experienced delays, the lighting work could be progressed and completed before the ending of the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme.

Resolution

Motion

That the proposal for the new church lighting be submitted to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for consideration by the Diocesan Chancellor.

Voting

Proposed by: GS
Seconded by: WB
Votes in favour: 6
Votes against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Outcome: Carried

Item 3 – Acceptance of a Grant for Conservation Reports

Discussion

The Chair explained that there are 3 objects in the church that appear to be in need of expert conservation – the female Purbeck marble effigy currently in the Eliot Corner, a ham stone effigy currently under the altar, and a ledger stone (bearing an acrostic verse) beneath a carpet under the chancel arch. A quote of £480 (ex VAT) has been received from McNeillage Conservation for conservation reports on all three. Having received this quote, a grant of £400 from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Department of the Church Building Council (CBC) has been successfully applied for. A condition of the grant is that the PCC vote to accept it.

Resolution

Motion

That the East Coker PCC accept the offer of a grant of £400 from the Church Buildings Council for conservation grants on two effigies and a ledger stone on the basis that it is subject to the Council's General Conditions for Grants.

Voting

Proposed by: WB

Seconded by: SS

Votes in favour: 6

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Outcome: Carried

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

Signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.



CJ Beattie

Churchwarden

7th October 2025