Clarendon Team Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday 11 November at 2pm

In the Team Office Winterslow:

Present: Simon Chambers, , Alison Larkham, Alice Page, Jane Dunlop, Liz Parsons, Heather Lowndes, Debbie McIsaac, Ruth Livesey, John Hawkins, Alan Jewell, Debbie Case, Rachel Funnell (notes)

1 **Welcome** from Simon,
2 **Opening prayer** led by Simon

3 **Apologies** received from, Liz Bayford, Sara Atkinson, Sara Bossom, Michael Barratt, Sharon Grant

4 **Matters Arising**

Prayer Sheet – a slow take up on the new prayer sheet initiative, slight confusion over whether individual or not. **Action** – MB to compose a message for clarification to be sent out via ChurchConnect

5 Team Vicar Appointment

We can rejoice at receiving an application for the post 😊. Interview will be 3/4 December, providing an opportunity to meet churchwardens, team council members and leading a collective worship at Alderbury School. Possible start Easter or beginning of April depending on notice required.

We may receive a rebate on the rent of the Alderbury vicarage.

6 Hospitality

DM will produce a questionnaire to pass on to each PCC to examine each parish's welcomingness. Parishes are not obliged to do this – only if they feel comfortable . Feedback to ministry team

7 Baptism Policy

The 2022 policy was discussed and slightly updated. Families are still encouraged to hold their baptism within a normal Sunday service, but these would have to be on a Sunday when clergy are leading the service. If this Sunday is not possible, the clergy can take a baptism services at any mutually agreed time, but published in advance so congregants are able to attend and welcome the child into the family of the church.

8 Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues reported

Hub Update – Safeguarding administration now lies with the clergy and team administrators. The Parish Safeguarding Officers can see the information but no longer need to make changes, update and chase up, this now lies with the administrators and clergy.

Decisions over who requires DBS checks will now be agreed by Team Council, for consistency between parishes. All Church wardens need DBS check, PCC members will need to have a DBS check by 2028, but it was agreed to begin that process now – starting from APCM elections in 2026.

The old microsite doesn't have complete records of training, but the new hub will have, and we will be able to update it. We will therefore be asking for clarification to training taking place where microsite records are missing or PSOs don't know.

Safeguarding Sunday this Sunday – 16 November – use this opportunity to thank your local parish safeguarding officer for all their hard work.

9 Diocesan Finance

Simon introduced the Diocesan Budget Summary. There has been a 13% increase in the budget and an ongoing £2million deficit, but with external funding to the diocese, only a 3% increase in total share.

The diocese will be refunding the diocesan fees from last year, which is to be taken off each parish's share. It was suggested that RF / DC write to the Bishop suggesting they let us off Diocesan fees next year rather than refunding – which doubles workload.

Simon explained it is important for Team Council to see the relationship between diocesan and team financial situations.

10 Parish Feedback

Ride and Stride was mentioned, raising money for Historic Churches Trust and for our churches
Remembrance services were well attended throughout.
Combining Harvest with a flower festival was very successful for Whiteparish, including all village organisations.
Christmas plans are coming together, Alderbury are preparing their Nativity Trail and family party.
East Grimstead continues to do well with the Save Our Church campaign, 2 members of that committee have joined the PCC which is excellent news
It was noted in Pitton that their demographic is changing, young families are living in our villages but not attending church. Suggest we stand back and rethink what we offer. Maybe Saturday afternoon activities?
Winterslow is forward planning, actively holding Vision Meetings to plan the way forward. Parking is a priority.
It was agreed by team council that The Team service in December will be held in Winterslow Village Hall, as this was not only good for the environment – expensive to heat the church, and good for parking and loos.

11 AOB

Timing of meetings – we agreed to change winter meetings from 2pm to **1.30pm** to enable those with child duties to pick after school.
Deanery Synod – DM asked that each PCC have a deanery synod representative. They don't need to do anything other than vote -which is important. Nominations must be in before 20 December

12 Closing prayer – said by Simon, followed by the grace.

Next meeting Thursday 15th January 2026 at Whaddon 1:30pm

Team Council meetings

Wednesday 11th March 2026 at Team Office 1:30pm
Tuesday 12th May 2026 at Whaddon 7:30pm
Thursday 16th July 2026 at Team Office 7:30pm
Wednesday 9th September 2026 at Whaddon 7:30pm
Tuesday 10th November 2026 at Team Office 1:30pm
Thursday 14th January 2027 at Whaddon 1:30pm

Joint PCC Meetings

Tuesday 27th January 2026 Via Zoom 7:30pm
Tuesday 29th September 2026 Via Zoom 7:30pm

Please plan PCC meetings around these dates to enable appropriate information sharing.