Clarendon Team Council Meeting Notes

Thursday 9 September 7.30pm

In St Mary's Hall, Whaddon

Present: Simon Chambers, Debbie McIsaac, Liz Bayford, Jane Dunlop, Marcia Wadham, Alan Jewell, John Hawkins, Heather Lowndes, Sara Atkinson, Ruth Livesey, Derek Howland, Sarah Hutchby, Liz Parsons, Michael Barratt, Alison Larkham, Sharon Grant, Debbie Case (notes)

1 **Welcome** from Simon

2 **Opening prayer** - led by Simon

3 **Apologies** received from: Alice Page, Sara Bossom.

4 **Matters Arising**

Service Pattern Trial Update

Primarily for Alderbury, East Grimstead, West Grimstead and West Dean

Currently holding off from implementing due to mission and a busy period coming up. Wider conversations are being held across the communities, seeking feedback from both regular and non-regular members.

Cluster services across August received very good feedback. These were well supported and some members reported faces have become familiar as communities worship together. Parking can be tricky at All Saints, Winterslow so a suggestion was made to hold next August's cluster service in the Winterslow Village Hall, where parking is more plentiful.

5 Team Council as Legal Body

Simon had prepared and read out a summary of the legal status, detailing why we were looking to make these changes and next steps. This will be presented at the Joint PCC meeting later in September. Each PCC is encouraged to provide at least 2 or 3 representatives to form a working group, who will iron out details and legal issues, such as patronage. The working group do not have to be on PCC's but need to be capable of handling ecclesiastical law and its intricacies, as well as reporting their findings to the Team council and Joint PCC's.

6 Policy Review

Safeguarding policy - was reviewed and agreed by all.

Baptism policy – baptism's are a welcoming part of church life and therefore the requirement to sign an agreement was felt to work against that principle. The role of Baptism Warden exists under several parishes, even if not using that term. Some changes to Section 5, as some responsibilities have now passed to the Team Administrators. Consider renaming Section 6 as Best Practice - consider centralising baptism anniversary cards to the Team Administrators.

GDPR – was reviewed and agreed by all.

Recruitment of Ex-Offenders policy – was reviewed and agreed by all.

Simon reminded all present that acceptance of these policies as deemed as agreed by PCC's and all parties are to report this fact to their PCC's.

7 Finance

Parish Subs figures reported are stated as 50% because Q3 has not yet been completed. Anomalies such as Office heating and electricity, telephone and broadband were explained. These relate directly back to the decision to reform as a Joint Council, meaning we can properly negotiate rates and make changes to contract details. Other factors take into account the wider situation with growing energy/fuel prices worldwide.

The figures on the balance sheet were explained as being held in agency for the quarterly subs/fees, which will be managed at the end of September.

8 Team Administrator

A increase to the Team Administrators hourly rate was discussed, acknowledging the level of skill and attention to detail that this role command. All present unanimously agreed that this can be increased from £13.40 an hour to £15.75 to be in-line with equivalent secular roles.

9 Safeguarding

No safeguarding matters were reported.

An overview of the joint PSO/Safeguarding administration meeting of the 8th September was given. Most PCC member DBS checks have now been initialised, and the administration team are working through these. There is a preference to return to face-to-face identification as the digital ID verification has proved tricky.

Safeguarding training dates are as follows:

- 29th September – Basic and foundation training – Winterslow (AM)
- 1st October – Domestic abuse – Winterslow (AM)
- 8th October – Domestic abuse – Whiteparish (AM) – including carrying out DBS verification checks

Alderbury are considering possible dates for evening/weekend slots to ensure we can accommodate all across the parishes.

All persons requiring training are welcome to any session.

Safeguarding Sunday is the 15th of November this year. A link will be shared with all PSO/PCC members which includes some great resources for sharing.

10 Parish Feedback

West Dean The annual village fete provides a huge donation towards the upkeep of the church but sadly did no go-ahead this year. So the church held their own! Fantastic feedback from those in the meeting that had attended and the fete successfully matched the funds that would have been provided through the village fete. Faculty applications via the DAC re proving difficult. Simon will feed this back to the arch-deacon. The suggestion was made to return to visits prior to applications being submitted, which would help to avoid some of the delays.

West Grimstead have a quinquennial coming up. Most issues are known but this does not address the known financial concerns for the potential repairs. The summers cluster service saw the Alderbury congregation arrive in force! It was fabulous and heart-warming to see the church so full.

Winterslow The de-weeding party at St John's was a great bonding experience. Delays to the topcoat being applied are a slight concern as the weeds may grow back! Parking at All Saints is always a concern but joint services highlight this. Perhaps joint services can be held in the village hall going forward.

Pitton received great feedback following a recent baptism.

Whiteparish Attendance throughout the summer was better than expected with no dip in numbers. Quinquennial reports highlighted the repairs needed to the downpipes and hoppers.

Farley Thanks were given to Winterslow for coming to the August cluster service – good to see the church so well attended. A contactless machine has been added to the church but is awaiting its final installation, near the door. A further application has been submitted for the final stage or repairs to the tower and roof. A leaflet was added to the local parish magazine asking the community to help by means of a regular donation to the church.

Alderbury A card machine has been installed along with Hive heating. August services worked well. There is a continued need for pastoral care, largely not helped by an aging community along with other issues. Meeting that demand is proving difficult.

11 Dates of future Meetings
2027 meeting dates were set. The daytime meetings during the winter months are to start at 1pm for those needing to collect children from school.

12 AOB
Simon agreed to bring worshipping figures to the next meeting. Whilst the way to report numbers has changed, reviewing numbers will help to compare trends across the parishes.
Ride and Stride is going ahead on the 12th of September with several walks being planned.

13 Closing Prayer - led by Simon

Next meeting	Tuesday 10th November 2026 at Team Office 1:00pm
Team Council meetings	Thursday 14th January 2027 at Whaddon 1:00pm
Joint PCC Meetings	Tuesday 29th September 2026 Via Zoom 7:30pm

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