

Registered Charity no.  249726

**Minutes of the Council Meeting 24th November  2021**

**Sancroft Rooms, Fressingfield Suffolk**

**Present**:  There were 28  members present

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| **Item**  |   | **Action**  |
| **1.**  | **Linda** **welcomed** everyone to the meeting saying how lovely it is to be meeting face to face again after the past 2 years and opened the meeting with a prayer. Linda also welcomed and introduced Amanda to the members present.   |   |
| **2.**  | **Apologies**:  Margaret Goldstone, Jean Haste, Margaret Rollins, Jane Drew, Margaret Bloomfield, Alison Crockett, Margaret Lowe, Margaret Llewellyn, Jill Rood, Catherine Forsdike, Wendy Fellingham, Ann Wright, Sue Kistruck. Mary Stalley, Pat Sheppard, Val Jefferies, Win Sutton, Jeanette Wolland, Rosemary Dale, Elizabeth Nunn, Mandy Alderman, Brenda Simmons, Sue Norrington, Margaret Bond .  |   |
| **3**  | **Conflict of Interest -**None  |   |
| **4.**  | **Minutes of meeting 21st July 2021**. These were proposed correct by Sandra Griffiths, seconded by Jane Whight, and agreed by all. Signed by Linda Ginn  |   |
| **5.**  | **Matters Arising**. There were no matters arising.   |   |
| **6**  | **DP Report**. – Linda’s report had been sent out prior to the meeting.   |   |
| **7.**  | **Treasurer’s Report**– Seereport sent priorto the meeting. Amanda showed on the screen how she is setting the accounts out which she thinks will make it easier for members to understand. Amanda then explained how MSH are changing the titles of accounts by not calling them restricted and unrestricted funds but calling them designated and undesignated funds. St Eds & Ips have decided to keep the titles as we know them to save confusion. Amanda said that MSH have been asked to send any bonuses/profits straight into our MUe account - this gives Clare a good working balance. She also said that as we can see from her report, we have a very healthy balance in our accounts. Amanda pointed out that in the Constitution we are not able to send funds to another charity but she did point out that if a branch had a speaker from a charity and they wished to give them some money they can have a collection on the day and give that to the speaker as this would not then go through our books. They can also buy and donate vouchers to charities ie. Women’s Refuge etc. Amanda told the meeting that some of the money sent to MSH had been used in Burundi by a man who invented a savings shop.  He trained 7 people how to run this shop and now 4 have set up their own shops. The accounts were proposed by Jane Wight, seconded by Lorna Brooks, agreed by all. Linda thanked Amanda for her report and for getting the accounts ready for the meeting in a short time.    |   |
|  **8.**  | **Unit Reports –**These had been sent to branches before the meeting by email, Linda then asked the trustees in turn if they had any more to add to their reports. Christine updated us on Clewer and the meeting she attended involving the Diocesan Networking team. She said how the Modern-Day Slavery is national but being led in our area by Suffolk Police and that Caroline from the police team would be happy to give talks to branches as would Christine. She asked the meeting to pray for those supporting the Victims of Violence.   Anna – added to her report a huge thanks to those that donated and supported the I-Chameleon Shop in October they made over £1400 plus another £400 for MUe. She said NSA would once again be making up stockings for the IWNS. Beryl – Nothing to add Cathie – Nothing to add Clare – Nothing to add Jeanette – Reminded members that Linda wants St Eds & Ips to be known as a praying diocese. She is hoping to hold the postponed Discovery Day in 2022.  Jeanette also had items available to branches to take to add to the Christmas Trees in their churches.  Sandra – Thanked those that supported the Ipswich Area Coffee morning on Saturday at Martlesham. There was a really good attendance and £663.25 was made towards their funds. Sandra said they had already bought Pyjamas and pants for the IWNS at a cost of £204 and she would be buying gift vouchers for the Woman’s Refuge in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds with some of the money raised. She did say that the Ipswich hospital can no longer accept knitted items as they have no space to store them. If the situation changed, she would let branches know. Janice – Has some prem. baby hats to give but as the hospital cannot store them asked what to do with them. Linda said she would hold on to them for the time being. Monica – Has increased the number of Indoor Members recently and keeps them informed of what is going on in the diocese. In their absence Linda thanked Margaret Rollins for looking after the over- 90’s by sending cards, and also Jean for overseeing the Prayer Chain. Linda pointed out that it is necessary to inform Beryl and Clare, plus Jean and Margaret, if member pass away or move address. Sue and Val were unable to attend but had sent their written reports prior to the meeting.  |    |
|   **9.**  | **DP’s Remarks**– Linda mentioned that Penny had been busy restoring the banner that now hangs in the Cathedral and that Beryl had found a firm that would print a copy from a photo onto material and had got one printed, and her husband had made the pole, etc. This one can be used without damage and is very much lighter. If branches wish to have a copy themselves it would be possible if they contact Beryl for the photo and name of the firm involved. Linda told the meeting that Rev Canon Ian Wilson is unable due to work commitments to be our Diocesan Chaplain for the next triennium. Bishop Martin has said he will find another Chaplain for us, but if anyone has an idea of who could be approached for this task, please let Linda or Beryl know. They need to be able to help with our Services and content. Linda also said that our diocese is known as the Diocese that prays. DP Conference -  Linda had planned to attend this at High Leigh but on the Sunday did not feel well so booked a covid test for the Monday and the result came back void, so she did another one which also came back void. On the 3rd test (which was too late for the conference) her test was negative. She is waiting to receive the Minutes etc. from MSH. She will be compiling the monthly newsletter in the next few days and will inform members what was discussed then. Linda mentioned that this is the last Council Meeting of this triennium and that some of the trustees will be stepping down as they will have been in post 6 years. These are Clare, Cathie and Anna, but all 3 have said they will work in Communities of Interest so we will still have their knowledge and support for our trustees from behind the scenes. Jeanette will become the Vice President in Cathie’s place. Linda thanked them all for all they have done whilst working as Trustees. We were also told that our Worldwide president Sheren Harper will continue for another 3 years and that we have seen more of her as she has used Zoom for meetings etc. enabling more members to be involved. MSH are proposing to have a learning review starting in 2022. Linda asked that branches take photos of their branch meetings and events and send them to Clare for the website (after getting the permission form signed by those involved). She also asked that they get information regarding their branch events into Parish magazines and websites.      |   |
| **10.**  | **Re-Imagining MU –** Jeanette told the meeting that this was started in 2018 but due to the pandemic had been put on hold but was now coming to the fore again. She told the meeting that if branches or individuals are making items that we have some iron-on labels, so the recipient knows where they have come from thus making MU bolder and more visible. She encouraged the meeting to think of different ways to hold meetings.  |   |
| **11.**  | **5 Minute Break**  |   |
| **12.**  | **We welcomed the Rev. Canon Philip Banks, Precentor at BSE Cathedral, as our speaker.** Philip gave a very interesting and sometimes humorous talk telling what he does in the Cathedral and something about his life outside of work.  Linda thanked Philip and said he was always ready to help MU when required, and that we appreciate his support.  |   |

Beryl then mentioned that we would be having Bishop Tim Stevens (retired) as the president and preacher for our Lady Day and Commissioning Service on 25th March 2022. Bishop Tim was the Bishop of Dunwich when in this diocese.

 Cathie led Mid-day prayers followed by the closing prayer. Linda then thanked all for attending and for their input.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm

Date of next meeting –  **16th March 2022: this will be our AGM. Venue TBA – Speaker Rev Richard Steiner. 9.30 coffee with meeting starting at 10.00am.**

**Friday 25th March 2022 Lady Day and Commissioning Service at Bury Cathedral**

**Wed 20th July 2022 Council Meeting, Venue TBA – speaker Jo Copsey from BSE Town Pastors.  9.30 coffee for 10.00am meeting.**

Signed:………………………………………………………………Date ………………………………………….…