

Minutes for HCT – 2023 Forum Meeting

Date: Tuesday 11th July 2023
Time: Approximately 20.20, immediately following the earlier AGM
Venue: Trafalgar Road Baptist Church
Chair: (CU) Clive Urquhart (Moderator);

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

- i. Agenda for HCT Forum with Annual General Meeting
- ii. HCT Finance Report for 11/07/2023 Meeting
- iii. Minutes for HCT AGM Thursday 21st July 2022
- iv. HCT Forum Minutes 20th April 2023
- v. Development Co-ordinator's Report June 2023
- vi. Horsham Matters Report July 2023, Prepared by: Emma Elnaugh
- vii. Horsham Eco Churches Review for HCT AGM 11/07/2023 Meeting

1. Welcome to new HCT Delegates - Clive Urquhart

There were no new HCT Delegates attending the meeting for the first time.

2. Minutes of last meeting, dated 20th April 2023, and matters arising – Clive Urquhart

There were no comments and no matters arising from the last meeting. (CU) signed the draft Minutes as approved and as an accurate record of that meeting.

3. Finance report & 2022 Accounts – Richard Jackson



Horsham Churches Together

Finance Report

11/07/2023

HCT Forum 11th July 2023

Cash Position

	FREE FUNDS	OGF	FEGANS	ECO Church	Outstanding For HCT Exec	TOTAL
31/12/2020	9,675.05	18,719.65	5,075.00			33,469.70
31/12/2021	8,036.75	18,219.65	170.35			26,426.75
31/12/2022	9,033.11	0.00	1.00	150.00	5,240.98	14,425.09
31/06/2023	9,805.72	0.00	0.00	150.00	5,161.98	15,117.70

A formal cash position summary was presented, and circulated prior to the meeting, which shows the current cash balance compared with the end of previous years. The current balance of £15,117.70, includes £5,161.98 of designated funds which will be distributed amongst local charities, at the discretion of the Executives, potentially used for evangelistic activities. The intention was to present a list of those local charities but due to a change of circumstance with one of the potential recipients, within the last couple of days, the figures

will need revisiting. However, the distribution of the first of those funds is imminent. Accordingly, in real terms HCT's cash balance is £9805.72 This is where we expected to be at this time of year.

4. Horsham Matters report - Amalia Lovett (AL)

The report was distributed prior to the meeting. (AL) highlighted the main items:

- Horsham Matters (HM) are looking for more volunteers for the Foodbank, as they are planning to add additional ones at Kingdom Faith, at Lifespring, a mobile hub to go out to Cowfold and also possibly a few more. Delegates were encouraged to take that request back to their churches and if anyone is interested to contact (HM) and submit a completed Volunteer Application Form
- (HM) are also looking for a volunteer Trustee; specifically, with fundraising experience
- (HM) have distributed 710 individual food parcels in May and 721 in June, averages out to about 700 per month. It's a decrease from the 900 they were once providing, probably an impact from the cost of living payments. However, whilst the numbers are down it's still an increase from what they were distributing last year. The needs are still evident. (HM) continue to purchase food each week to supplement stock as food donations are low and demand is high. Delegates were encouraged to take a request to their churches for food donations.
- The Poverty Survey has been published and a link has been put into the HCT Notices and circulated to all Church Leaders. (AL) encouraged everyone to take a look. The key items, and not surprising, people are feeling isolated; with mental health concerns; struggling financially and to buy food and feed their families; and not knowing where to access information and advice, and lacking confidence to ask for help - part of that is Digital Exclusion (those who aren't using the internet). The Survey involved interviewing 300 people, some face to face, some on line, some of at churches.
- One Question was raised, regarding the Digital Excluded, will there be paper copies of The Poverty Survey? (AL) advised, if anyone would like a paper copy she is happy to arrange that and deliver it, within Horsham.

5. Development Co-ordinator's report – Richard Jackson

A report has been circulated. (RJ) highlighted a couple of items not mentioned in the report

- Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God;" There is a sense of being still before God and looking to Him for what we do next. Reflecting on the last 18 months, (RJ) senses some reorganisation in the way we do things, some things being put down and making space for other items which have taken a back seat which need picking up again. There is an impression of "Fresh and New" including:
 - from September the Methodist Churches: St Andrews. London Road and Partridge Green are amalgamating to form Cornerstone.
 - A leadership change at the Salvation Army, Horsham, in May, Major Iain and Major Ann Stewart who had been there for many years moved to Scotland, (RJ) hasn't yet met the new incoming Minister.

- Samantha Burton Chaplin of YMCA, has moved on and YMCA are currently going through a recruitment process for another Chaplin.
- There have been a number of new church leaders who have arrived within the last 18 months
- A new incoming HCT Administrator.
- Reflecting on the HCT Prayer and Worship sessions, the one in July had a couple of hundred people attending and the one in March had not far short of three hundred.
- The Good Friday event, Sam Maginnis. the new minister at Holy Trinity Horsham, spoke and St John's Broadbridge Heath led the music, God blessed us with an extraordinary day, with amazing weather.
- The HCT stall in the town centre, for the Coronation Celebrations, Life Community Baptist Church helped for the first part of the day and St Marys the second part together with several other people. Overall a couple of hundred crowns were made with the children
- Sunday Funday took place last weekend with a children's parade in Horsham followed by a big Rotary Club - charity event in Horsham Park. HCT were not able to produce a team for that for a number of reasons but it's in the diary for involvement next year.

Looking forward we still have 'Together in Horsham' (formerly Fegans) a charity and part of Spurgeons a project involved with 18 primary schools in the town, part funded by the schools, part funded by Spurgeons and about 25% of the costs is coming from the churches.

(RJ) invited anyone to share anything happening in the local churches.

1. St Marks are running a café from their church building every Tuesday morning from 10:00am to 12:00pm serving a selection of homemade cakes coffee and tea, , all free of charge. It's a way of reaching out to people who are lonely.
2. St John's BBH will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary, 30th October through to 5th November they'll be having a week of community activities, primarily to reengage with the village - if anyone has any ideas contact Mark Lavender
3. In response to a comment (RJ) gave a brief update about the Mowbray Housing Estate, North Horsham, everything remains on hold although there is hope that the build may be able to continue soon

(RJ) was thanked for everything he is doing.

6. Dates of future meetings (for information)

The next Forum will be Wednesday 11th October 2023, at London Road Methodist Church, Proposed Dates of meetings in 2024 will be circulated shortly.

7. Any Other Business None.

8. Closing Prayer –

The meeting broke into small groups to pray.

Clive Urquhart closed the meeting in prayer

Forum closed approximately 21:10

Attendance:

Richard Jackson (HCT, Development Coordinator)
Tim Carter (Brighton Road Baptist Church)
Clive Gooding (Brighton Road Baptist Church)
Michael Hogg (Brighton Road Baptist Church)
Ian Jones (Connect Southwater)
Kath Jones (Connect Southwater)
Margo Slater (Connect Southwater)
Terry Banton (Holy Innocents, Southwater)
Alison Hudson (Holy Innocents, Southwater)
Libby Risby (Holy Trinity)
Amalia Lovett (Horsham Matters)
Sharon O'Connor (Kingdom Faith)
Clive Urquhart, (Kingdom Faith)
Pete Dibdin (Life Community Baptist Church)
Anna Pisani (Life Community Baptist Church)
Bessy Gamelli, Living Faith Assembly
Gavin Hancocks (London Road Methodist)
Katharine Webbe (London Road Methodist Church)
Mark Lavender (St John's Broadbridge Heath)
Tom Murray (St John The Evangelist)
Diane Hellyer (St Mark's)
Sue Keegan, (St Mark's)
Tim Pascoe (St Mark's)
Clive Phillips (Trafalgar Road, Baptist Church)
Ian Fletcher (URC, Horsham)

Apologies for absence received from:

Kate Fraser
Juliet Fuller
Sarah White

Gill Parsonson Holy Trinity
Veronica Horvath – HCT Treasurer
Sandra Hall Rector Itchingfield with Slinfold
Elyane Dale (London Road Methodist Church)

Geoff Peckham Benefice of Lower Beeding and
Cowfold (Holy Trinity, Lower Beeding, St. John's,
Coolhurst, St. Peter's, Cowfold.)

Daphne Barraclough (St Andrews Methodist Church)
Anita Hambling St Leonard's Church
Shirley Gardner (St Mark's)
Karen Park (St Mark's)
Jon White (Trafalgar Road Baptist Church)