

## MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S (FOSP) CHURCHYARD PROJECT GROUP

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### MINUTES

Attendees: Anne Bailey, Peter Barker, Jane Duberley, Graham Fice, Jenny Hailstone, Diana Knight, Nina Roggero, Anne Worsfold

Apologies: Chris Aresti, Suzie Dodsworth, Tim Hailstone, David Holmes, Harriet Trubshaw.

#### **Background information about FOSP and the Churchyard Project:**

FOSP is a charitable organisation that raises money and awareness to support the church building in its role in the centre of the village and as an asset to the community.

- FOSP liaises with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) especially where permissions for FOSP projects are required and the PCC refers to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) when higher approval is required. Peter Barker is a member of both FOSP's Committee and the PCC and is the prime channel of communication between the two organisations.
- The Churchyard Project has the broad approval of the PCC though as the project develops there will be some areas, such as seating in the churchyard, where further discussion will be required.
- In devising the Churchyard Project FOSP was informed by a report written by David Curry, Exeter Diocesan Environmental Advisor and Kelvin Boot, an ecologist, following their visit to St Peter's in April 2022. Quite a lot of their recommendations were included in FOSP's Plan for St Peter's Churchyard which were given broad approval by the PCC in May.
- FOSP is the lead organisation for the Churchyard Project, it is keen to have advice and involvement from individuals and organisations within the parish. Members of Sustainable Stoke Fleming and the Loam Rangers are keen to be involved in the churchyard project.

It is estimated that it will take about five years to reach the point where the project is considered to be complete and maintenance becomes the main requirement. This meeting focussed on tasks that could be carried out now to get the project up and running.

Modbury have a similar project which was started two years ago. A visit to be arranged in the spring.

#### **Action Points**

##### **Entrance to the churchyard**

Bulbs will be sourced, to be funded by FOSP. The date for bulb planting will be announced so the community are aware of what is happening and can be involved if they wish.

##### **Wildflower area**

The grass in the wilding area to be strimmed twice a year. The grass will be removed to reduce fertility allowing the wildflowers to flourish. Regularly mown paths will be created though the area. To be done at FOSP's expense. Liaison with Churchwarden required.

##### **Brambles on boundary wall**

These need to be cut back and ideally removed completely. They dominate the area marked on the plan and their roots can damage the wall and undermine the gravestones.

### **Pathways**

Improving the pathways will take time and money and needs further thought. As a starting point it was suggested that the sides of the Coffin Walk path be cleared back to ascertain the size of the original path. PCC approval to be sought.

The large shrubs near the war memorial would benefit from pruning; any pruning would also have to be approved by the PPC.

### **Mini meadows**

Transforming one of the overgrown/uncared for graves into a mini flower meadow would be an opportunity to showcase the philosophy of the churchyard project. Permission from the church and if possible grave owner will be required. PCC to be asked for permission to create a mini meadow within one grave as a showcase.

### **Fruit Trees**

To be discussed at a later date.

### **Seating**

All group members to think about seating suggestions for the next meeting.

### **Wildlife and Involving the School**

SF primary school have a Forest School and it was agreed that contact should be made.

Birdboxes with cameras and wildlife cameras to be investigated.

### **Information for the Community**

Articles to be placed in the Parish magazine and information about the project posted on the village website and Facebook. Information boards in the churchyard about the project and boards next to areas under development are also important so interested people can understand the work in progress.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 at The Old Stables.