

NOTES of a meeting held on 2nd September 2009 to consider the Proposed Extension to St Andrew's Church, Holt

PRESENT

Rev. Howard Stoker, Rector (Chair) (HS)

Dick Copas, Churchwarden (DC)

Glyn Purland, Churchwarden (GP)

Roger Percival, Chair, St Andrew's Church Development Committee (RP)

Chris Thompson, Church Treasurer (CT)

Hugh Richmond, Vice Chair, Diocesan Advisory Committee (HR)

David Eve, Historic Buildings Inspector, English Heritage (DE)

Chris Young, Senior Conservation and Design Officer, North Norfolk District Council (CY)

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING STATEMENTS

HS introduced the meeting by thanking those present for attending to discuss some doubts and concerns which had emerged concerning the current scheme. He gratefully acknowledged the amount of time and effort that had been involved in bringing the project to its current stage and the previously understood constraints which had influenced the current design. However, he and the Churchwardens felt that it was very important to pause and take stock together of the way forward at this key point in the life of the project, i.e. *before* a planning application is submitted. HS summarised his concerns, to be discussed in more detail, as follows:

- The location of the extension
- The impact of a 'lean to' build on the south wall stained glass windows
- The effect of a modern 'lean to' build on the overall integrity of a medieval building
- The limited scale of accommodation provided by this approach

HS stated the purpose of the meeting was to seek comments on the current plans and to enquire whether the representatives of the three external agencies present would be open to consider a revised scheme.

DC, in confirming a long association with the development of the current scheme, shared fully the concerns expressed by HS, with particular emphasis on the limited internal dimensions of the plans and the likely impact on the south wall stained glass. DC added that he brought another dimension to the discussion from his role as a past Gresham's schoolmaster and present Gresham's School Governor, in that he knew, from informal conversations, that Gresham's would be sympathetic to an approach from St Andrew's to acquire a limited amount of their land (currently earmarked for future car parking) immediately behind the south churchyard boundary wall. Such agreement could open new options for a build, in order to overcome the current concerns.

GP advised that he had been elected Churchwarden earlier in 2009 and had no previous involvement with the project, other than receiving reports as a member of the congregation. During the past four months he had reviewed files, listened to people's views, attended a project meeting in July with architects Stead and Mutton, spent time with DC at the county records archive centre exploring the history of the site and had talked with the St Andrew's church architect Ruth Blackman, in company with HS and DC. GP fully shared the concerns already stated and believed that the time was right, before making an application for a final DAC Certificate of Recommendation, to stand back and