

Thornbury Baptist Church

Minutes of Family Forum meeting 8th November 2018

Dave Ling gave a word of welcome and led a time of worship.

74 Members were present and 19 had sent apologies.

Follow up from the last Family Forum on 8th November 2018

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

Mike Levy thanked everyone for their Harvest Donations and passed on thanks from CRED, TEN and the churches in Romania. Jason Clark has become a new member since the last Family Forum.

Eldership Affirmation

Mike Levy explained the process of affirmation, confirmed that the elders have not received any scriptural objections that would prevent Heather being affirmed and asked for three volunteers to help with counting the slips. Simon Lewis, Dave Tubb and Janet Clarke volunteered. Mike explained that those who had already voted ahead of tonight's meeting were not able to vote again and that votes by proxy were not allowed.

Paul's Sabbatical

Paul shared news of his sabbatical. He thanked everyone for supporting him in allowing him to have a break. He said that the main lesson he learned was that balance in life is important: work, rest and recreation. And he stressed the importance in allowing oneself time for refreshment. Mike prayed for Paul and gave thanks for all that he is and all that he does for the TBC family.

Solar Panels at TBC (Separate Power Point presentation available)

Mike Levy and Danny Bonnett spoke to us all about the option of installing solar panels on the roof of the church. Mike explained that is technically feasible and that we would produce more than we use during the summer months (which we would sell back to the grid) but that in the winter we would need to buy supply from the grid.

The cost of installation would be £18,700. Over the 20 year life of a solar panel the cost would be the same as it would be to buy electricity in the same way we do now.

I. The Environmental Choice

Choosing to install solar panels demonstrates willingness as a church to do our bit. The energy used to produce the solar panels is about the same as it would produce over just three years of use.

All towns/cities/regions will need to generate a high proportion of their energy needs locally so this will result in a low carbon resilient system.

2. Issues

The installation requires planning permission, discussions so far have not ruled out Solar Panel installation

Best to be installed by 31 March 2019 to benefit from income from the Feed In Tarriff – Time is of the Essence

Need an Energy Performance Certificate – which we would need either way.

Due to the fact it is a large amount of money to spend it is not a decision that can be made just by the elders, the church members need to be part of the decision.

3. Next Steps

TBC Family Members to pledge financial support as an indication of desire to proceed. Submit pledges to TBC Office. The needs to be done by 29th November 2018.

Full proposal is available from the TBC office and if people have questions they can speak with Mike Levy or Danny Bonnett.

There was a period of Q&As in which Mike said that a decision will be made based on the number of members supporting the proposal and the amount of money people are willing to donate.

TBC Team

David Lawrence informed members that over the next few months the elders will be having two planned away days in order to discuss the team at TBC (staff) and how TBC may look in the future. David stressed that this is not a crisis and there are no issues but that the elders really wanted to pray together and listen to God to see what his heart is for us here at TBC.

Dave Ling lead us again in worship and David Lawrence asked us to pray for the elders and the decisions they made regarding the team.

The meeting ended with the announcement that Heather Joy Staley had been affirmed as an elder and we had one final worship song.