

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN
ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH ON 31st JULY 2001**

Present: Councillor W.Hepplewhite (Chairman)

Councillors E.W.Armstrong, G Gustard, M.Gustard, R.Olaman, M.Oliver, A.Westmorland.

**Also in attendance K.Carter - Churchwarden - St.Andrew's PCC; E.Wood - Treasurer -
St.Andrew's PCC; Canon W.Hall - Durham Diocese.**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor **W.Kennedy**

2. MILLENNIUM WINDOW - ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH:

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Canon Bill Hall of Durham Diocese who had been invited to advise on the way out of the impasse which had arisen over the design of the window, following the public consultation exercise which had been undertaken by means of a display within the Church, and which had indicated little or no support for the design as proposed.

Canon Hall regretted that the design had not be found to be acceptable, but acknowledged that in the circumstances a fresh start would have to be made. He explained that the cost of the original work had been met by the Diocese from a variety of sources, but that any future costs would have to be borne by the Parish Council. He suggested that a group be formed comprising Parish Councillors, the Reverend Alan Milne, and representatives of the Parochial Church Council, to prepare a design brief for the re-submission to himself. Depending upon the the nature of the new design, he would select a number of artists specialising in the type of work required, and present a slide show of examples of their work. Following this, a decision would be made on the individual artist to be engaged. In answer to a question, he stated that the cost of a draft design, working from a brief would be in the region of £500.

The Chairman invited Councillors and the PCC representatives to explain their own individual preferences, and although a variety of views were expressed the underlying theme was one of traditionalism, and the need for the window to depict both the nature and environment of the Church and the village. Repeated reference was made to the recent visit made by some members of the Council and subsequently by a group from the Parochial Church Council to the Church of St.John the Baptist at Greatham, the theme of whose new millennium window matched perfectly the requirements being looked for at St.Andrew's.

It was acknowledged during the discussion that it was very difficult to bring together the various strands of opinion, nevertheless, a clear desire had emerged on the underlying principle involved.

Summing up, the Chairman agreed that further consideration was necessary along the lines suggested by Canon Hall. This would be initiated at the Parish Council meeting on 6th September, when the formation of a working group would be discussed. Canon Hall undertook to give the project his wholehearted support, but emphasised that he would prefer the design brief to be presented by the Vicar.

The Chairman thanked Canon Hall for his attendance and presentation, and likewise thanked Ken Carter and Evelyn Wood for their involvement and they left the meeting.

Following further discussion, it was

Agreed: That further consideration be given to this matter at the September meeting, and that in accordance with Canon Hall's wishes, the Vicar be invited to nominate a date convenient to himself to discuss with members the design brief proposed.

3. HEDGEROW MEETING:

Following prior consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk reported to members as a matter of information, that following the recent site meeting with officers of the County Council, the farmer who had also been in attendance, had spoken to two members separately on an unrelated item which could affect the proposed re-instatement of the hedgerows. From the discussion which ensued, it was clear that there was no support from members present for the item concerned, which at this stage was purely verbal, and that a report on the site meeting be given at the next meeting in the usual way.