

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 2018

Title: Closure of the church of Honiton St Michael

Purpose of Report

For members to consider a response to a letter detailing the closure of the church of Honiton St. Michael

Recommendation:

Members to decide how they would like the town clerk to respond to the closure of the church of Honiton St Michael.

Report:

1. A letter has been sent to the Town Council regarding a proposal to close the church of Honiton St Michael, being a chapel of ease in the parish of Honiton with Monkton.
2. The rationale behind the draft proposal is that the Parochial Church Council of Honiton with Monkton has indicated that it can no longer maintain the church of Honiton St Michael and has petitioned the Bishop of Exeter for its closure.
3. These proposals, if implemented by a pastoral scheme, would have the effect of closing the church of Honiton St Michael for public worship and vesting it in the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance for care and maintenance pending a decision on its future. Any such decision would be the subject of a second scheme, called a Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) scheme, which would be prepared and published by the Church Commissioners, and with regard to which an opportunity would be given for representations to be made.
4. The churchyard at Honiton St Michael consists of several parts. In any part which is closed for new burials, rights of access will be retained for those wishing to visit or tend graves.
5. Responses are required by the 22 February.

AGENDA ITEM 20

6. Members to decide how they would like the town clerk to respond to the closure of the church of Honiton St Michael.
7. A copy of the letter is in the council offices if members would like to view it before the meeting.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
February 2018