

Parish Council Meeting – 4th February 2019

Attendees: Mike O’Sullivan(MOS), Mike Eggleton(ME), William Yeung(WY), Kit Tranmer(KT), Quentin Jackson(QJ), Paul Dobson(PD), Paul Turpin(PT), Isabel Evans/Parker(IEP), Matthew Ives(MI), Isidore Faloona(IF), Michelle Spears(MS) and Geraldine Mansbridge(GM)

Apologies: Paul Kinman, Michael O’Kane and Rob Fernandes.

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2019 were amended by adding the IT sub- committee to the groups that had submitted reports and were then approved.

It was also noted that the Stewart of the Gospel updated activity through the website.

Matters Arising and Notices:

- **Mass Streaming**

ME referred to the recent gathering of Eucharistic Ministers and the questions raised about Mass streaming at mainly the 6pm Mass. In some cases, Ministers were not happy to be filmed. MS pointed out the Minister have and do make alternative arrangements when they do not want to be filmed.

The reason for 6pm was because ME was the only person who filmed and this restricted flexibility over his other commitments, both in the Church and his personal life. Clarification was sought about whether or not the PPC wanted mass streaming to continue; in doing this ME reassured the PPC that the people we are trying to reach, who cannot attend mass, can only view the mass is through our website.

It was agreed to continue with the streaming of the 6pm mass on the basis of ME availability.

- **Becket Centre**

PT referred to his report which contained proposals in respect of the maintenance of the Becket Centre. This has arisen to some extent because until two years ago there was no structure to support the running and maintenance of the Becket Centre, thus resulting in the need to bring a lot of things up to a reasonable standard. The current proposals involved the decoration and replacement carpet for upstairs and replacement ovens. It was acknowledged that monies raised from the hiring of the centre were paid into the Parish and not reinvested in any Becket Centre maintenance plan. Suggestions were made that perhaps there should be a sinking fund, but this was an issue that needed to be discussed with the Finance Committee.

QJ pointed out other matters such as replacement heating would have an impact and therefore the issue of timing would need to be taken into account as we would not want to decorate again in a short period so therefore suggest delaying the decoration until after the new heating had been installed.

It was agreed that the progress on the replacement ovens should be made and the decoration should be reviewed in 2020 after any major heating works have taken place.

- **Governance**

The issue of the sinking fund and the Diocesan controls were discussed and led to a wider debate on governance and communication within the Church and Friary. Clarification was sought about the roles and terms of reference of the Finance Committee in relation to the PPC, the role of the Diocese and the Trustees and who is accountable to the Parish Priest. It was thought that in Canon Law the Finance Committee is an advisory body to the Parish Priest. There was also concern that the Trustees were taking decisions such as roofing which may place a burden on parishioners to raise substantial amounts of money without being involved in any decision-making process.

QJ commented that we need to develop better budget management and planning and better reporting of the cash flow situation.

KT stated that he thought there was a growing need to work more collaboratively and transparent and this should commence with QJ and MI discussing how to take this forward with the Finance Committee, who are next due to meet on 27th February. KT has been invited to the next meeting of the Trustees (7th February) which he hopes will be the start of better working together and joined up decision making for the collective good of the Parish and community.

The matter to be discussed further at next PPC meeting in March.

- **Meeting of Parishes - where from here?**

Despite the snowy weather, the first meeting of the three Parish Councils was well represented and well structured in its consideration of the 12-point plan. WY suggested that there may also be other long-term benefits, such as sharing of experience building works/maintenance etc.

The next stage of building relationships will involve the PPC Chairs (or their representatives) meeting on a more regular basis. The current thinking that all three Parishes should work towards a joint working plan for Advent 2019.

It was noted that QJ and other Priests will be attending a day organised by the Bishop on 13th February where questions were to be submitted in advance.

- **Fabric Issues - Roof / Heating etc.**

Roofing

KT outlined the decisions that had been taken about the roofing which he understands the Finance Committee had been aware of.

Heating

The Trustees have been advised that the heating system needs replacing at an estimated cost of £900k and that they are seeking the PPC to approve the second phase of assessment. Members felt they had insufficient information on which to make a decision. They would like to see the expert report on the system as it stands, and it is unreasonable to expect them to make decisions without more information. If necessary, they will hold an extraordinary meeting once the information is available to them. MS also asked if any effort had been made to seek grants to support the funding of the project and what consideration had been given to the appropriate temperature that would not damage the organ.

KT agreed to report back to the Trustees.

- **Outdoor Mass**

MS and MOS agreed to take the lead on organising the Outdoor Mass. In order to assist the Music Group it was suggested that it should not follow immediately after the first Holy communion masses. The Mass maybe streamed and that would be agreed at a later date when the date was confirmed.

- **Summer Fayre - Quentin**

The PPC were pleased to note that the summer Fayre had been booked for 29th June 2019 and that the organisers from last year would be taking the lead.

- **Volunteers - what are we doing? Thank you, day?**

ME agreed to assist MS with identifying the lead person for the volunteer groups in the Parish. Contact would be made to establish the interest and cost of holding a volunteers day which could also potentially encourage more parishioners to join in with parish and our community life.

- **Adult Education - where are we?**

QE informed the PPC that he had secured Adrian Graffy to give two lectures on the Gospel of Luke to parishioners in May.

Ideas were explored about Lenten activity, but no conclusion was reached. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Huts - update**

Members having considered the report that had been circulated noted that if planning consent was not needed, they would seek to get this confirmed in writing, if this was not forthcoming, they would seek formal determination from the Local Authority before any further steps were taken to replace the huts.

In preparation it was agreed that the Tree (located between the Huts) should be removed as set out in the quote provided. It was noted that the cost of this stage of the preparatory work would be met from the Grant received by the Brownies towards the new storage facilities.

Outstanding issues - quick comments on; -

Electric Candles

MOS sought an update on the installation of electric candles. PD informed the meeting that he had written to the Friars and was waiting a response. KT agreed to chase a response for the next meeting.

AOB

Franciscan Order

MI suggested that there may be advantage in wider discussions with the Order, along similar lines that the Vision Document is placing on Parishes to have about the long-term views of our church communities. KT agreed to write to the Trustees.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will take place on 4th March 2019 at 8pm.