

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 4th December 2017

Apologies

Mike Eggleton

Jac Edwards

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes

The meeting discussed the Brownies' proposed amount (£10,000) for refurbishing the Brownie hut(s). PT informed the meeting that he had asked the Brownies to get 3 quotes for the work.

Action: Agreed that PPC should discuss this when we have more information from the Brownies about the cost of the works and the ownership of the hut.

Advent flyer

The meeting officially thanked Mike Eggleton for his work on the Advent flyer, which was agreed to be very effective.

Father Quentin noted that the volume of paper we currently receive from various sources is increasing.

Action: The meeting agreed that we should review the volume of paper and try to encourage the use of the website rather than hard copy information.

Christmas Mass parking on Christmas Eve

It was noted that this is largely in hand. The meeting asked Guy to assist in the car park at the 5:15 Mass. Guy agreed to help. However, he did note that he would need assistance with this.

Action: Mike agreed to help Guy at the 5:15 Mass.

Sue suggested that we note in the newsletter that those who are disabled will be allowed access to the car park to drop off disabled people.

Christmas Tree and Crib

Paul is unable to organise the ordering of the tree this year. He asked for a volunteer to order the tree from opposite the Warren Wood. The suggested date for dressing the tree is Sunday 17th December 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

Action: Kit agreed to order the tree.

Action: Team agreed to dress the tree of the 17th December

Becket Centre

The meeting expressed its satisfaction with the painting work downstairs at the Becket Centre.

Action: Paul to thank Cheryl for her work on this.

Adult discussion group

Paul noted that the Autumn sessions were now complete. Numbers dwindled towards the end of the sessions. Council agreed that the Adult Discussion Group should set up a meeting on 17th January at 8pm to discuss the Diocesan plan, coordinating with William.

Action: Meeting to be set up for January 17th. Pre-meeting on the 10th at 8pm at Paul's house.

The Council suggested that we should continue the Adult Discussion sessions in the New Year – with the likely theme focussed around the Synod on Youth.

On the theme of youth, William mentioned a couple in the Parish who organise a youth Mass at Chingford. William had approached the couple who seem keen to contribute to the Parish; he suggested that we follow this up. Mike reported that the Confirmation Group this year is active and he feels there may be something we can do with this group to start to build more youth representation in the Parish.

Action: Mike to keep this under consideration.

Diocesan Plan

William circulated copies of and referred to a brochure from the Diocese "Working Together to Evangelise Our Diocese" (**WTTEOD**). William's view was that this brochure, due to its length and detail, was not really appropriate for general wider circulation to the Parish. Instead, the consultation group has produced a summary document of the WTTEOD. The restructuring section of the WTTEOD suggests that St Thomas take on the Church of St Anne Line. The Renewal section is much improved and appears to have taken note of many of the group's comments. The summary is to be produced by Thursday 7th December.

Prior to the meeting on 17th January, William's group will produce a checklist style questionnaire for parishioners to complete. This will be made available at the Christmas masses.

Longer term, the group will try to focus feedback on the objectives set out on p2 of the WTTEOD. This feedback would be collected just before Easter.

Father Quentin expressed his view that the focus of the WTTEOD is still too 'clerical' and there is insufficient progress on the renewal of the Parish through lay people.

Action: These broader philosophical issues to be framed at the meeting on 17th January.

Appeals Procedures

There were some drafting changes to the wording around the final approval procedure.

Action: Kit to reword with Matthew and recirculate.

AOB

Father Quentin raised the issue of some frustration with the speed of the works on the Church and Friary.

Paul Turpin referred to a letter from Gerry Curran stating that work on heating and boilers is largely complete at cost of £22,000. Father Quentin has personally observed that the boilers are not all firing.

The cost of replacing the Church roof is likely to be around £200,000.

The cost for inspection of car park and renewal is around £100,000.

Work on archive room complete.

Action: Paul to circulate report from Gerry to the Council.

Kit suggested that there needs to be more dialogue with the Custos around costs of repair and how these are shared.

Action: Kit to write to the Custos to propose a date for a meeting in January.

Action: Rob to meet with Gerry on site to find out the status of the works. Paul to write to Gerry to confirm this, copied to the Custos.

Paul suggested that once we have a better understanding of the costs of the works, we need to make an appeal to the Parishioners to review their contribution to the Parish so that we can increase revenue to cover expenses. The first step should be to encourage gift aid and standing orders.

Action: To keep this under consideration.

Rob reported that the Fabric Committee is producing terms of reference for approval by the Parish Council. Rob reported a new email address for the committee.

Action: Terms of reference to be tabled at next meeting.

The meeting discussed the use of cones in the Parish car park. Father Quentin observed that they narrow the passage and can get in the way. It was suggested that the cones be removed once Mass is in progress.

Father Quentin noted that we should review some of the outstanding issues raised in previous meetings and make sure that we have a plan of action to progress.

Action: Rob to review the porch and the deep cleaning plans.

The meeting noted that the International Evening was a great success. The meeting formally thanked Sue for her work on this.

Date of next meeting

8th January 2018