

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
**Pastoral Parish Council**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Bernard Hunter, Fr Michael Copps, Patricia Jolly, Lorna Spears, Martin Sharkey, Robin Shearmur, Donna Patros, Matthew Ives.

**Apologies** Damian Atkinson, Peter Robson, Geraldine Mansbridge

Fr Michael opened the meeting with a reading.

**Minutes** The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**Matters arising:**

The liturgy actions listed in May's minutes are all in progress, but not yet completed. Fr Michael had spoken to the young man begging and asked him to leave. If Vittorio returns, Bernard will give him the same message, and a letter to that effect.

**AGM**

Agreed that Bernard would collate a report with contributions from Damian and Peter, that it should be an upbeat but honest assessment, and that it would be agreed by PPC members, probably by email.

We will seek to have reports published in advance of the AGM, which is on Sun 20 July.

**Henrietta Suite Project**

Bernard provided an update to members as follows:

*After Barkers had corrected the room measurements in their initial documents, and eventually provided a detailed breakdown of estimated costs, the project turned to the tendering process they proposed, which we are discussing with them to better meet our needs.*

*Key areas of improvement so far have been*

- to require costs provided by those tendering to be broken down to enable us to check them for value and possibly omit any we feel are not value for money (eg ceiling)*
- to require the kitchen work to be included, rather than being awarded to our kitchen designer without competition*
- to omit some out-of-scope and unnecessary elements (eg CCTV upgrade, foyer, separate flooring in stores, built in cupboards in storage areas, covers for windows; others still being reviewed are friary doors and anti-burglar devices)*

*There are some smaller items still being considered, but they will not delay the tendering process.*

*Right now, the delay is Barkers effort to finish the documentation, part of which requires details to be sent from the kitchen designer. The documents (which is voluminous) will be made available for PPC members when it is ready.*

*Hence, our plan to have the work done the work over the summer holidays seems increasingly unlikely to be realised. The choice is to wait until next summer, or to carry on and have the Henrietta Suite out of action in the autumn.*

*Although not ideal for some regular users, most can be relocated to upstairs or to the scout hut while work proceeds.*

Members were clear that we should proceed as soon as possible rather than waiting until next summer, even if that puts the Henrietta Suite out of action at a busy time. They asked for more legible plans to be displayed and advertised. They asked that the possibility of using the back of the church for after-mass refreshments be considered.

Some considered that doing more work in the foyer might be a good use of resources; it was agreed to consider that once a preferred contractor had been identified.

### **Volunteers**

The proposed letter to be sent to parishioners was discussed, as was the possibility of a short appeal after masses one weekend, and a volunteering fair.

Members thought that a concerted personal approach to as many as possible after masses might be a fruitful way to proceed. No firm plan was developed, and a subgroup of Donna, Lorna and Bernard will work together to form one for PPC approval.

### **Becket Centre Committee**

The proposed revised constitution was formally adopted by the PPC, subject to members not coming forward with any questions over the next few days.

Patricia confirmed that the committee would be pleased to assist the Henrietta Suite refurbishment project with opinions about minor practical issues such as colour schemes and power point locations.

She also confirmed that they would accept oversight of storage policies and issues.

### **Information items**

- Despite reminders, the schools have not been forthcoming in claiming the grants previously agreed. Members regretted that.
- Discussions are taking place between Fr Michael and the Diocese about our wish to continue using the payroll and HR support that they provide.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, but will be cancelled if there proves to be insufficient business.

Matthew closed the meeting with a prayer.