

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Attendees :** Peter Robson, Mike O'Sullivan, Bernard Hunter, Lorna Spears, Michelle Spears, Kit Tranmer, Rob Fernandez, Sarah Dodd, Andrew Dodd, Debbie Giddings, Donna Patros, Fr Michael Copps,

**Apologies for Absence:** Matthew Ives, Paul Turpin, Fr Isidore Faloona & Geraldine Mansbridge

Bernard chaired.

Fr Michael led us in a Lectio Divina using Matthew 22. ("Many are called but few are chosen")

**Minutes of the last PPC meeting (4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023)**

1. Youth Councils – noted that the suggestion was for the Parish rather than the schools to organise a Youth council for all its young people, not only those who attend the local schools.
2. Young People's Wellbeing Fund – Andrew will collate a report from the schools covering 2023 early next year.

The minutes of the September meeting, subject to the above amendments, were then approved.

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising. But note that the September meeting had run out of time for all the subgroups to report back to the whole meeting. So we then shared about what had been discussed in those groups, as follows: -

Bernard suggested that, since the PPC couldn't deal with everything, we should form sub-groups. But conscious of objections raised about the unlikely uptake to such groups, and accepting that we should first ask parishioners what they want, we agreed that a few of our members could work jointly on the most pressing, or "quick-fix" items. One member asked if we had a mission statement or strategy.

**Action Points**

1. Mike and Sarah will arrange a rota for PPC members to meet parishioners after Mass. (to see what people want or need from the parish)
2. Michelle will lead on a social event for the parents of children who had recently been baptised, with emphasis on activities for children – likely to be March/April time.
3. Donna will lead on a social event for new parishioners.
4. Bernard to circulate notes from Sept meeting strategy discussion.

## **Tennis Club Constitution**

It was not clear why this was an agenda item. Kit explained that it had been promised at an earlier meeting. Bernard will be the PPC Tennis Club link person. The proposed constitution was accepted by the PPC.

**Project Update** Please refer to the October Status Report for details.

Notable points therein: -

1. **Adoration** feedback. Pat from the Music Group was not happy with the very low attendance for the last hour, and wondered whether it was worth them being there. Since it was so early in the new term, there wasn't sufficient notice to attract the schoolchildren. It was suggested that it would give more people an opportunity to attend if the session was extended to 5.30pm. Sign-up sheets were not displayed adequately. On the other hand, lots of people gained from it, the prayer sheets being especially helpful.
2. **Car park tarmac. Action point:** Rob was asked to bring Fabric Team proposals to us as soon as possible with costings and a reasoned recommendation.
3. **Car park management** One member felt strongly that the Parish shouldn't be paying large amounts of money (it could be around £20,000) without a contribution from the many individuals and groups using it who have no connection to the church.  
Kit noted that the PPC had rejected any charging mechanism last year. The situation is now worse.  
*Action point:* Kit and Mike were tasked with reviewing the problems and options and bringing proposals to the PPC.
4. **Scout Hut.** It was important to ensure we don't spend a lot of money on repairs when it is envisaged that we may tear the whole thing down and replace it with a new building. We were reminded that parishioners are still contributing to the heating fund, and that it had been agreed that any money left over could be spent on other things, especially a new scout hut. It was also stressed that it must be established that it is parish property and available to other groups, although the Scouts would always have priority. One complication regarding use of the current hut is that there are no integral toilet facilities.  
**Action Point** – Rob and Sarah will make a joint inspection of the scout hut and report back – Rob will send us some pictures and we could all have a look in the meantime!

5. **Henrietta Suite.** Kit described how divided the Becket Centre subcommittee were in deciding on the scope and the details of the proposed refurbishment. They have appointed an architect to draw up alternative plans. One of the repercussions envisaged is that if the refurbishment is really high-spec in order to attract high-paying users, current users who cause very high “wear and tear” may be asked to use other facilities, such as the scout hut.
  
6. **‘Maintenance’ works.** The PPC confirmed that it was happy for low cost repairs and urgent maintenance work to proceed without PPC permission (knowing the there is still Finance committee oversight and spending rules), but would like to be informed of all significant maintenance.

### **Farewell to Debbie!**

This was Debbie’s last PPC meeting as she is moving down to Dorset. We gave her our thanks and our best wishes.

### **Next PPC meeting**

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.