

Parish Council Meeting Minutes for 8th September 2016

Present: Fr. Ted, Deacon Jim, Martin Gee, Anne-Maria Cornwell, Anne Ritchie, Robert Snailham, Peter Hills, Jigi Valooran, Jiss Antony and Patricia Swinbanks as Minutes Secretary

Apologies: Wilfred Rodrigues

Welcome and Prayer and Presence

Fr. Ted welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The first half hour of the meeting is always a time of “Prayer and Presence” - a time of quiet reflection, prayer and personal sharing.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – not covered as a main Agenda item

Concert for Cancer Help – Fr Ted said that he is waiting to hear from the organisers.

Guttering - Alan is hoping to come next week with the Cherry Picker.

Garden Wall – The insurance details have been passed on to the Diocesan office so that they can attempt to reclaim the cost of the repair.

Bring and Buy Sale – Everyone agreed that this had been a great success and a total of £568.10 was raised. Jim thanked everyone who had made it a success.

Financial /Property Report

Jim gave a report on the parish finances for the previous month.

Fr. Ted mentioned the large damp patch in church resulting from the leaking gutter which is situated in a stone outer, and is partly covered by slates. Alan will carry out an inspection of the slates to see if water is penetrating there.

Fr Ted also mentioned that water had come through the ceiling at the top of the stairs in the house. A roofer will come to give an estimate for the cost of the work required.

Parish Booklet

The group updated the meeting and a discussion followed:

- The group had held a meeting and a further two items were added to the list of contents.
- Martin will give a list to Fr. Ted of all the features needing to be photographed.
- Steve explained that the booklet should be in a form that can be easily reproduced as required, especially in relation to annual changes resulting in the need to update.
- Fr. Ted suggested that a booklet could be included in the school welcome pack for new children.
- Fr. Ted ended the discussion by saying that the way forward would be to produce a pilot copy, and he thanked the group and encouraged them to carry on with their good work.

Remembrance Day

Jim suggested having Martin's display from last year, consisting of the booklets relating to the men whose names are engraved on the Remembrance Chalice who lost their lives in WW2. Martin has been able to add information in the last year in relation to Thomas Taylor and Michael Towman.

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Parish Dinner

Jim explained that the first dinner was held at the time of the last Guild and annually since, but interest in the event had gradually dwindled. He suggested dropping it until there arises an opportunity to celebrate an event.

All present agreed with this suggestion.

Christmas Ministry Celebration

This refers to the celebration in January for all those who have done service for the parish during the last year. Fr. Ted said that he associates this with the feast of the Epiphany and the Wise Men bearing gifts, and asked for everyone's opinion.

The result was very positive and a discussion followed as to the date and type of food.

All agreed on a Hotpot supper and Jim immediately phoned the social centre to request Friday January 6th, but as this was not available, he booked Friday January 13th for the event.

Health and Safety

Fr. Ted reminded all present that the Diocese is working to tighten up on these issues. A consultancy firm has been appointed to take on this task and all submissions will be done online.

John Cairns has been appointed as the parish Health and Safety representative. He will attend a meeting on October 8th to find out exactly what is involved.

A document has been received from the Diocese relating to hate crimes, and this was passed around for all to consider. Fr. Ted had watched a police video on this subject but had found it unrealistic. The Government has made a grant available but this depends on the existence of evidence that someone local has been subjected to a hate crime. So at the present time this is not appropriate for our parish.

Terrorism apart, there are important things to consider for a confined space such as the church, but it is important to keep things in perspective thereby preventing the spread of fear. Improvements have already been made for safety reasons when the church is in use:

- There are now 2 green exit signs
- Both doors leading to the sacristy area from the main body of the church will remain unlocked so they will open easily
- There is now a key behind glass at the side door where the ramp is and another at the back door
- The front doors will be unlocked but remain bolted and the gates will be open
- One of the welcomers should carry a phone
- Emergency lighting will be considered when the audit inspection on the electrics takes place in the near future
- Awareness of unattended bags
- Awareness of strangers and odd behaviour whilst maintaining a welcome
- CCTV system already in place

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Date of Next Meetings

27th October 2016 (replacing 13th October)

8th December 2016

Following an evaluation of the meeting, Fr. Ted concluded proceedings with a prayer.