

ST CHARLES BORROMEO
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Fr Don, Nick Collins (chair), Ann Black, Julia Bradley, *Cecillia Fraser, Derek Handley, Val Gebbett, Sue Hoolahan, Owen Le Blanc, Emma Parkinson, Sylvia Shaw (minutes), Chris Wild (*Cecillia Fraser standing in for Catherine Rolls)

Apologies: Jimmy Dickson, Norman Garlick, Catherine Rolls, Terry Walsh

Approval of PC Constitution

Proposed constitution had been circulated in advance. Accepted with the following amendments.

4. Term of Office

Membership of the Council shall be for TWO years commencing on the Feast of Pentecost. Once in place the Council will be publicly confirmed, affirmed and blessed by the parish priest every other year on or near the Feast of Pentecost.

Chair's actions

Attended study day at Hothorpe Hall last week.

Approval of previous minutes of 10th June 2014

Accepted as a true record.

Photo list of members

All in agreement to having photos and names of PC members displayed in the church. Nick will take photos at the end of the meeting.

Report from Finance and Fabric Committee

Derek provided a financial statement covering revenue and expenditure for the first quarter of the year. Main income derived from Sunday collections and money from convent. Peaks and troughs throughout the year. Derek proposes to prepare an annual budget identifying capital expenditure.

Taking into account inflation the trend across all three revenue income streams over the last ten years indicated a downturn in revenue mainly caused by the decline in the numbers of parishioners.

The parish holding its own at present due to PP "cutting cloth according to revenue". This is an issue to take forward into the next item.

Council's main objectives for the year

Need to increase revenue

Better use of gift aiding. Derek has the list of those who gift aid but this needs to be reviewed to establish it is up to date. Need to identify the best ways to inform the parish of how to gift aid and collect the information.

Increase the Community

More people attending church would add to the revenue collected. Fr Don mentioned that there are also people who donate money who do not attend church at all.

Falling numbers is a major problem and linked into the theme of the study day which Nick reported on.

The day was led by Fr Eugene Duffy from Mary Immaculate college, University of Limerick who took for his theme 'Theological and Pastoral Implications of Serving Multiple Parishes'. He spoke about the future challenges facing parishes due to a combination of a shortage of priests and falling congregations. The number of catholics not attending church is the problem and how to engage with them. At some time in the future it is likely that the parishes will have to share a priest. The challenge is for parishes to develop and sustain worship when the priest is not available. Eucharistic Ministers are able to lead services and should be encouraged to do so.

Julia made the point that she would welcome having the opportunity to practice leading a service under the watchful eye of Fr Don who would guide and support her and the other Ems to develop in this area rather than wait until there was not a priest available.

The point was made that the school is the main catchment area to engage with children and their parents. Attempts so far to do so have met with limited success. Norman Garlick is a school governor and will be able to make some input about developing stronger links.

Proposal made to set up a working group mainly comprising the Eucharistic Ministers but others interested to look at taking forward this work and developing an action plan. Nick and Sylvia to be part of the group. Sue Hoolahan also asked to be included. Sylvia to forward the presentation notes from the study day when these are received. Date for Pastoral Working Group meeting is 22nd October 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Update from the various Groups

Finance & Fabric

Historic buildings committee meeting on Wednesday when decision will be taken to approve a new heating system for church. If approval given it still has to go to consultation at planning and historic buildings. If successful the suppliers are standing by and could go ahead with the work during October. May be a cold month in church whilst work underway but with a positive outcome.

Young Families

Holding a Family Day on 21st September between 2-5 p.m. All welcome with or without children. Want to utilise the musical talents of school children in church. Hold regular family Masses. Youth Masses linked to Terry Walsh's availability. £40,000 ring fenced to repair the organ but only a vague plan in place. Musicians would like a subsidiary organ.

Cleaners

Only five people involved. Unable to do a high clean or windows. Finding it difficult to recruit more people for the task.

Any Other Business

School Christmas Fair in December raises funds for the parish. The more groups involved the better. Various people already contribute to this annual event.

Acknowledgement from group to Nuala for the hard work she put into the WW1 display.

Action: Sylvia/Nick

Invite Brother Philip Revell professed religious to attend the Council meetings ex officio to recognise his vocation and what he can offer.

St Charles feast day on 4th November. Fr Don would like to celebrate the occasion in some way.

Fr Don has been contacted by a solicitor with regards to a legacy from a deceased parishioner.

PC needs to communicate with full parish about what it is doing. How best to do this? Use of the newsletter, website and the Chair speaking from the altar were suggested..

Date of next meeting Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.00 p.m.