

# ST CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE ORATORY ON 14.10.2015

**Present:** Nick Collins (Chair), Ann Black, Father Don, Val Gebbett, Derek Handley Sue Hoolahan Owen LeBlanc, Emma Parkinson, Sylvia Shaw

**1. Apologies:** Julia Bradley, Catherine Rolls, Terry Walsh

Opening prayer.

### **2. Chair's actions**

NC has been in contact with Angela Cass of IC to discuss action on refugees.

### **3. Minutes of 1.7.15. and 13.9.15.**

Accepted as correct.

### **4. Matters arising not covered by the agenda**

a) Joint co-operation with IC. NC has spoken to Angela Cass about this matter and reported that The Immaculate Conception are very occupied in raising money for their church and see limited possibilities but it be possible to have one joint event per year which she will raise with her PC otherwise there is some overlap via the Wednesday Group.

b) Organ Renovation. FD passed on comments as per meeting of 13th September to the Building and Sites committee. A reply has been received from Edward Poysner of the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan who stated that the Committees and Board of Directors were surprised by the parish's proposal. The Board proposed that the specific fund of £41,372 should be used for the purpose of renovating the organ. Account was taken of the Historic Churches Committee's opinion that the organ is a heritage feature and the advice that if the work is not carried out the organ will stop working. FD stated that Parish opinion is on one side and the Diocese on the other regarding spending parish funds. However he understood from the Diocese that the organ fund has been accrued from sources outside of the parish. As the Bishop is coming to St Charles next week, a representative from the Parish Council if available could speak with him about this matter. DH noted that the letter states the organ will completely stop working if money not spent on a full renovation which is a new factor. **FD to contact Sixsmiths to establish the long-term state of the organ.**

NC felt unhappy with the tone of the letter and that no thought seems to have been given to obtaining external funding for the work. The Parish has to prioritise its spending and has some major projects to fund in the next couple of years.

### **5. Support for Refugees**

NC had prepared a paper detailing risk assessment and opportunities identified. Parish unable to sustain long-term and expensive housing project. There is merit in working to a local action plan alongside other groups. Need to identify how individual Parishes can best assist. Suggested contact made with the charity Aid to the Church in Need and Salford Caritas to find out if there is a plan already in place. FD said there is likely to be more guidance forthcoming nationally and from the diocese to aid parishes in this matter. NC suggested there is need for a Parish Champion to take forward this issue. **FD to explore who might be interested.**

### **6. Finance**

Financial statement circulated up to August 2015. In surplus due to low level of capital expenditure so far, the rebate from St. Philip Howard levy and lower running costs during the summer month. There is still a bill of £3,000 for insurance to meet and heating and

lighting costs increase during the winter months. Plan to redecorate the church in 2016. At next renewal of envelopes in April we will trial the use of gift aid envelopes for visitors. The Sick and retired Priests' Fund was discussed at F & F committee. Unable to use church donations for this purpose but some suggestions of how to make up the outstanding £24,000 include the diversion of all accessory monies for a period of three years, such as income from groups using the church, tote fund, votive lights, rent from care home. **The three congregational councillors asked to canvass responses from congregation to these options. FD to seek approval from Newark office for the diversion of any monies from rents, etc.,**

Eric Gebbett is retiring from counting/banking money, preparing floats etc. Big vote of thanks to him for all he has done over the years. Very much an unsung hero, his contribution to the work is much appreciated. DH suggested a replacement which could be an individual, a team or on a rota basis. **NC has thoughts about how to proceed.** NC reported on the Parish Hall sale. Progress being made. NC produced map of area to be sold, Waltons are the agents, four parties have indicated an interest in bidding. There will be an oververage covenant on any house built on the land after the sale. An incident at a recent wedding Grilles in aisle caused concern for people wearing high/thin heels. Various suggestions put forward as remedy but carpeting was favoured.

#### **7. Reports from represented groups**

- a) Welfare Group, VG queried if all the people on the list supplied by FD have been approached re visiting and this was confirmed. There was a question of the need for DBS checks on all those involved in visits. **Welfare group to check this with Maria.**
- b) JNC suggested sending Christmas cards to infirm parishioners this year with message and possibly a gift. **VG to take forward.**
- c) Need for a school representative on the Council now that Norman Garlick is no longer available. **NC to approach Martin Rolls to identify a school member.**

#### **8. Any Other Business**

- a) Bishop Patrick is visiting St Charles a week tomorrow at approximately 2.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m. FD has invited Steve to bring the children across for a blessing.
- b) Christine James has suggested holding a Parish bonfire in November. Thought to be a good idea but required to be properly organised as there are health & safety factors to take into account. Felt to be too much work to organise for this year but could plan for next year. **Pass suggestion to Young Families Group.**
- c) Christmas Fayre on 5th December. Different groups in the Parish involved but needs some co-ordination.
- d) Inter-Parish raffle. Needs some co-ordination and management and should not start until 6th December to avoid confusion with the Christmas Fayre and run for three weeks. **FD will confer with Peter Doyle.**
- e) FD would like to install lights on the drive but unsure how to proceed. **Action NC.**
- f) FD proposed having a meal at Windy Harbour near Pentecost paid for by the Parish to thank Parish Councillors for their hard work.
- g) Facebook. Still actively under consideration.
- e) Should the Parish council be more active at the lectern after mass?

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th January 2016**