

ST CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE ORATORY ON 13TH JANUARY 2016

PRESENT: Nick Collins (Chair), Ann Black, Father Don, Val Gebbett, Maria Ginnis, Derek Handley, Sue Hoolahan, Owen LeBlanc, Sylvia Shaw, Terry Walsh

1. APOLOGIES: Jimmy Dickson, Emma Parkinson

Opening Prayer

2. CHAIR'S ACTIONS

None during this period.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14.10.15.

Accepted as correct.

4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA

a) Sick List. DBS checks required for all those undertaking parish visits. SH is hopeful to progress on visiting soon.

b) Housebound/infirm parishioners. Cards and gifts were distributed at Christmas. Extremely well received and we hope to repeat again this year.

c) Facebook. In progress.

d) School representative. NC has spoken to Martin Rolls who has yet to identify a replacement.

e) Parish Bonfire. NC has spoken to CJ re this.

f) Christmas Fayre. Went well.

g) Christmas Raffle. NC and VG facilitated this.

h) Organ Fund. FD and Bro P Revell were present when Sixsmiths inspected the organ a few weeks ago. Awaiting their report re its condition and recommendations. FD has had discussions with the Bishop, the Building & Sites committee and the Trustees and has been told from the Bishop downwards that the work is to go ahead. He has also received follow-up messages querying why he is not progressing with this. No response from diocese about the possibility of external funding.

TW has been onto the Charity Commission website and circulated a paper outlining the points he felt were pertinent to the organ. The trustees must be aware of where the money is coming from; services need to be good value for money, and a clear trail following the expenditure of money. TW pointed out that as only one estimate has been asked for there is nothing to compare it to. NC said that Historic Buildings can authorise the go ahead with only one quote. OLB said we should ask Sixsmiths for an immediate quote for the work. We should also write to the Bishop reiterating our concerns. NC reminded Council that we had an advisory and not authorisary role and we have to remain within the constitution. TW queried who were the beneficiaries of the work. FD said it was the parish and the diocese. NC proposed a letter is sent to the Bishop from the council explaining our concerns and pointing out that the parish has a lot of priorities on its income other than the organ. He will also ask the Bishop to confirm that he is satisfied that the Charity Commission rules have been followed. NC also stated that anyone can write direct to the Bishop about concerns but only the Chair can write on behalf of the

Council.

5. SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

OLB had submitted a report on the plans of the diocese of Salford in response to the refugee crisis. The Bishops of England and Wales have asked that every diocese appoint a coordinator and Caritas for the diocese of Salford has been tasked with this work. FD is unaware of a similar appointment in our diocese. He spoke of the Year of Mercy meeting held recently and of our commitment to supporting the work of Cornerstones. He noted that other parishioners may well have connections with other worthy organisations which we could link into. We need them to tell us what they need. NC asked OLB to obtain more information about what was happening in the Salford diocese and to keep the Council informed.

6. FINANCE AND FABRIC COMMITTEE

DH circulated a financial report which showed that in the eight month period to November the finances were looking healthy with a surplus of £16,512. Capital expenditure has been minor but there is major work to be undertaken this year. Estimates to be obtained for either full or partial redecoration of the church; the stone floor requires cleaning; the drains and guttering need cleaning. Also seeking quotations for repair to the retaining wall before purchase of the land and FD needs a new oven.

Grids in church to be put on the risk register and advice offered to people attending baptisms and weddings.

Sale of Church Hall. A number of potentially interested parties who have been invited to attend a viewing and bidding day on 27th January.

The Council acknowledges its grateful thanks to Mike Wild and his team for the work on the tote which has paid in over £46,000 since it started and also to Lola and Margaret for their faithful work on the Repository which raises £1000 a year profit. We also receive £10,000 a year from the convent rent and there is a trickle of money from the AA groups and the bikes.

FD praised the organisation of the raffle this year which was contained within a 3 three week period. Some inequality between the two parishes. Lot of prizes. He queried whether better organisation was required for next year now that Peter was no longer so heavily involved. To be discussed nearer the time. NC commented on the fact that we do not have a committee for fund raising. There is a social committee which is unable to raise funds for St. Charles because of its composition.

7. REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS

Litery Group. CJ has suggested the children lead on 'meeting and greeting' each Sunday handing out hymn book, card and newsletter. MG said they never knew how many children would attend the Mass. She will however lay it before the young families in the Litery Group for discussion.

SS mentioned the state of the wall in the oratory following the removal of the radiator. Will be included in the quotation for redecoration of the church.

8. RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

The £36,500 is a joint target figure for St Charles, Immaculate Conception and St Margaret's. Including pledges £7,000 has so far been raised leaving £30,000 to find. St. Charles has now to find £15,000 as its contribution with Immaculate

Conception/St Margaret's finding the same amount through, we are told, fund raising events. 12-18 months remain from the initial 4 years in which to raise this money. We have been informed by Newark that we can run another 4 years from now. Literature pack available and FD suggested that information be circulated the week before lent and the appeal left open for the first three weeks of lent to see what further pledges will be made after which time it will be known what the revised target stands at. We can then look at how to raise the remaining money possibly using the tote money or pay out of set-off.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Two priests are buried in Glossop cemetery, one aged 32 years. To arrange for a team to go and clear undergrowth and spruce the graves. Will be a job for the Spring. FD will seek permission for this work to go ahead.
2. FD queried how much use was made of the website. NC said Facebook would raise the profile.
3. 4 converts attending for instruction.
4. Mr. Williamson retiring from school in the summer.
5. Need for some lights in the drive. On the list of things to do.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 27TH APRIL 2014.