

**Le St Charles Borromeo RC Church**  
**Minutes of the Pastoral Parish Council Meeting held on Sunday 6th**  
**November 2022**

**Present:** Father Don, Rob Cranston (Chair), Ann Black, Sue Hoolahan, Julia Bradley, Marie Ginnis, Derek Handley, Anthony Ashworth, Owen Le Blanc

1. **Opening Prayer:** Father Don

2. **Apologies:** Nick Collins, Sylvia Shaw, Anne Heard, Nuala Shepley, Christine James

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2022 accepted as correct

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

- Sylvia S has volunteered to be the secretary permanently.
- There are some minor changes to the constitution (see below).
- We still have no safeguarding representative. Following last month's meeting, Father Don put a note in the Church Newsletter (6<sup>th</sup> October) asking if anyone was willing to volunteer for the role of safeguarding rep with no response.
- The first School Sub-Committee took place Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, the minutes submitted to all PPC members the following day. Rob C wants to organize another meeting soon to allow a full complement of the sub-committee to share ideas and plan ahead.
- Following the initial contact Sue H had made with people from St Mary Crowned and All Saints, this should hopefully progress further as time goes on.
- Rob C has met with the Headmistress of St Charles Primary, Bernadette Quirke, to discuss the school/parish relationship. Rob C very impressed with how the Catholic faith is taught and made evident throughout the school. It was also remarked how much pupils look forward to Father Don's visits and there was a positive response to the formation of the school sub-committee.
- Anthony Ashworth has contacted Eucharistic Ministers and now has a core of six EMs.
- There has been some progress towards getting a defibrillator, but we still need to raise a lot of cash. Some funds have been raised from Sycamore donations on Thursdays as well cake sales by Sue H. Sue announced that she would be having a cake stall this Sunday (13<sup>th</sup>) and invited Council Members to donate cakes for the stall.
- We have three new fire wardens: Ann Black, Fr Don, Sue Hoolahan. Nick Collins has given them some training and provided and fixed a laminated notice with fire precaution safety info in the Church.

## **5. New Constitution:**

A new constitution had been prepared and circulated on line to all members. The original had been downloaded from the Nottingham Diocese website with amendments

- Item 3a: PPC meetings to be arranged 4 times yearly instead of 8. We are taking into consideration that Father Don also attends PPC meetings at Immaculate Conception as well as St Charles Borromeo. There is a provision for ad-hoc/extraordinary meetings in the constitution if these are required.
- Items 4dv and 4e: the wording changed to ensure that the sole responsibility of the temporal goods of the church lies with the finance and fabric committee, who will keep the PPC members informed about matters relating to the finance and fabric of the church.
- The Constitution was taken as being accepted.

## **6. Report from the Finance and Fabric committee (Derek Handley):**

- Our finances are stable. Collections are too small, but we are getting just enough income from the tote, gift aid, legacies, donations and fund raising.
- There are ongoing roof works.
- There will be a diocesan inspection in mid-November.
- With respect to energy and the rising cost of energy, this is centrally managed by the diocese, but we need to be careful to limit our energy use. We have new, more efficient heaters in the Oratory.
- The situation with Beechwood House is concerning. There is a lot of uncertainty, and we are concerned about our moral responsibility. Fr Don will try to contact the tenant, to learn more.

## **7. Economic crisis in the community:**

- Rob C attended a Caritas online session Sept 28th about helping people affected by the crisis in the economy. He said it was a worthwhile session with the emphasis on what has to be in place before we embark on any initiatives. They provided what they referred to as an Outreach Toolkit which covers a large range of legal/safety/financial measures to consider. We mustn't think of these as obstacles but we do need to be very aware of them in any of our plans.
- We are trying to co-ordinate our activities and to link in with other local efforts:
- Acting as a representative of St Charles Borromeo, Sylvia S has attended the first two sessions of the Hadfield Community Meeting at Hadfield Methodist Church. (19<sup>th</sup> Sep & 13<sup>th</sup> Oct). These have been very productive meetings in attempting to organize places where people who are experiencing problems during the current economic crises can be offered a warm environment to sit and chat and seek advice along with a warm drink and a bite to eat. Hadfield Methodist have recently announced they are making a start by opening their doors for this purpose Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>. They have also kindly e-mailed us attachments concerning Hadfield Community Spaces and a Person

Specification. Fr Don asked Rob if he would please pass this information on to him. The next Hadfield Community Meeting is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November if anyone wishes to join Rob C and Sylvia S.

- Christians Against Poverty (cap.org). Sue H offered to contact them seeking information and advice and to ask if they will send someone to speak after one of our Sunday Masses.
- St Charles School are planning to offer amenities during the crises. No details at the moment.
- Food Banks: We were for some time supporting Cornerstone (Salford Diocese) with collecting for their food bank but that link stopped for some reason. St Charles Primary School collect for food banks and there are other food banks we could link with namely Gamesley and Hattersley.

### **8. Sick, elderly and housebound:**

- Prior to the Covid Pandemic we had a group of people who paid visits in the Parish. Since then, we still have enough parishioners who could continue this valuable work but sadly we don't have the same number of people to visit we had before. We need to find a way to make contact with the sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish who would wish to receive visits.
- Especially in the pre-Christmas period, thought is needed.

### **Any other business:**

- Father Don: brought to the council's attention that trees on the church property are due to be cut back. This is a regular task undertaken to prevent overgrowth becoming a nuisance.
- Father Don: Father Sullivan has left hundreds of religious books which are here in the church and there are more where he lived destined to come here as well. These need to be disposed of in an orderly fashion. Father Don asked Deacon Owen to look into this.
- Ann B: There are worn flags in the church, could be a hazard. Derek Handley made a note of this.
- Derek H: Asked about the activities of the Mini-Vinnies group in St. Charles School. Marie G explained how it worked and that it was being run by Emma Parkinson.
- Rob C: David Want has suggested a plan for reordering the church. Glossop Anglican Parish Church have their Altar Table at ground level, bringing the Altar closer to the congregation. David asked if this idea could be considered at St. Charles Borromeo. Father Don asked the council members to consider this suggestion between themselves before the next meeting.

### **Date and time of next meeting:**

- The first Sunday in February: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 after Mass at about 12:15.