

**Minutes of the Pastoral Parish Council Meeting of
St Cuthbert and the First Martyrs of Rome**

held on Wednesday, 25th September 2019 at St Cuthbert's Unity Hall.

Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm

Present: Eileen Boyle (EB), Yvonne Coppin (YC)-Chair, Roxanna Drake (RD), Hannah Hayward (HH), Angela Hurtault (AH), Gregory Knowles (GK), James Wierzbicki (JW) and Jo Geoghegan (JG)-Secretary.

Action

1 Welcome and Opening Prayer

YC welcomed everybody, especially Hannah Hayward, our newest member to the meeting and asked Fr. Gregory to lead us in an opening prayer.

2 Apologies for Absence

Hermie Davy (HD), Mary Gilmartin (MG), Christine Walker (CW)
Not present: Pat Featherstone (PF)

3 Minutes of meeting 1st May 2019

These were accepted as a true record, proposed RD, seconded by JW.

4 Matters Arising meeting 1st May 2019

November Fayre

Its format was discussed at the last meeting; a decision needs to be made as the usual date is only 2 months away. It was decided that it should go ahead as it raises about £1000 but stalls will be restricted to those which do well: bottle stall (Mick Brooker), cake stall (donations on the day) chocolate tombola. Other suggestions included soft toy stall, face-painting (AH), fancy dress competition (flyer to school), candle stall (Jane Gavin). NO FANCY GOODS STALL THIS YEAR! Refreshments will be served (including vegan option). The 'PRE-CHRISTMAS FAYRE' will be held on Sunday 8th December at First Martyrs' Hall after 10.30 Mass (setting up on Saturday 7th December between 10 & 11a.m. The event needs publicity, volunteers request in the parish newsletters and massive support from the parish. Flyers are needed for both premises and an insertion in the weekly newsletter(s) – 'flyer' samples from RD after half-term. Support from parishioners will be appreciated by attendance on the day.

EB, AH,
RD

SC kitchen flooring

No progress as yet. JW to produce information for 16th November.

JW

5 Matters Arising Open Meeting 7th July 2019

Support for SVP Needs

The changed needs of the SVP were discussed in full at the open meeting in July. GK is suggesting that when the SVP has a specific need/request from a client such as for a wardrobe or sofa, that request should be made in the newsletter or from the pulpit to the congregation in an effort to fulfil a specific need at the time of asking. The suggestion would be relayed to SVP members.

JG

Weekend Coffee costs

At the open meeting it was noted that more money was raised to cover costs at SC than FM and that SC has fewer regular attenders. YC would discuss with Mollie Somerville how improved donations could be achieved at FM.

YC

Sunday Evening Mass discussion

Numbers of attendees at Sunday Evening Mass, 6pm at FM, have been falling. GK asked for opinions as to whether members thought the timing was still viable, Many people were attending who were not parishioners. It was thought that this was a matter for wider discussion at the next Deanery meeting.

Children's Liturgy-CW by email

CW has sent an email to SC Primary School to ask if they could request through their newsletter for volunteers to run the Children's Liturgy at the Sunday 10.30 Mass but she has not had a reply. An appeal one Sunday morning a few months ago did not achieve any result. She is happy to request another opportunity/insert a notice in the Bulletin if it was thought it might be fruitful. GK noted that children are being actively included in Mass where possible..

6 New Chair's Welcome and Introduction YC

YC outlined her vision for the PPC based on the original constitution of the PPC as a founding member.

1. The aim of the council was "To promote Parish Life and its Activities".
2. The Council was to represent a broad range of groups in the parish, each member to represent that group. It hasn't been easy to recruit such members but as far as possible the PPC is representative. A copy was circulated 18 months ago but another copy can be requested if needed. The Secretary will circulate the original notes for the constitution to new members. 4 meetings are held each year including an open evening for the Parish. There would be a President (non-voting)-the Parish Priest, a Secretary and a Treasurer-both non-voting and 8-10 Parishioners from which a Chair and Vice-Chair would be elected. At most meetings reports have been made from all these areas.
3. The next Phase: Chair's thoughts-has the PPC become a less effective decision making body? Do we revert to the more recent format of agenda or should it be more like tonight's? What do members do to move the Council and the Parish forward? The format should be the presentation of an item, then short discussion, then action proposed followed by agreed date for implementation. What has happened between meetings by Parish/individual? YC will list agreed actions made in this meeting for review at the next meeting.

Meeting's Responses

1. Highlight positive successful activities, there is much good will and support for parish life.
2. It was suggested that a brainstorming interactive poster could be put up in the churches with 3 headings-Spiritual, Social, Pastoral with the overall heading "Life of the Parish" to record what is already great and what could be improved.
3. How could a culture of volunteering be fostered? Is it the same people who are involved in parish life?

Coloured coded post-it notes could be used to stick suggestions on the poster. Activity to be announced in the newsletter and/or slot at Mass. This suggestion really needs some thought and planning for it to work otherwise it could become a 'free-for-all'.

Clear ideas to be brought to the next meeting.

7 Spiritual Life of the Parish

GK listed some examples of events and on-going activities under this heading: more lunchtime Masses at SBSJ open to Parish, 'mini' May procession at FM, at Pentecost children were given red balloons representing the Holy Spirit, Pilgrimage to Durham with the Italian Community, Year 6 Retreat activities, Leavers Mass & Disco, Holy Hour, Baptisms during Mass, Franciscan Friars came for the Feast of the Ascension, Deanery Clergy Social-parishioners joined in, First Communion, Weekday Masses Marian Anthem, 2 weddings, SVP Induction Mass holiday weekend Masses by visiting

priest, Year 4 weekday Mass at SC church, 2/3 whole primary school masses at SC Church, 2 visits by local state primary school to SC Church, Confirmation date secured for 20th February 2020.

Spirituality - Eucharistic Adoration-HH

How can Holy Hour be promoted as a time of reflection and mindfulness? It's timed at 5.30pm to catch those who may be on their way home from work. A time to unwind and experience. People may have an outdated view of what Holy Hour is. The Hour which focussed on Remembrance was particularly successful HH & Ah would work to produce an explanation.

ALL

Welcome/Hospitality-HH

As a relative newcomer to the parish-what happens now? Is it organised? What do people want to see? It could be one of the topics on the Parish Life poster.

8 Social Life of the Parish-GK

SC Cuthbert's Players performance based on 'Cold Comfort Farm' was a Success. Philippino Independence Day to which all were invited, FM Parish Feast Day, SC Parish Feast Party, Murder Mystery Evening, Birdsong & Prosecco in FM Presbytery Garden, Lister Community Action Group, Heritage Day & Bingo in summer months.

The St Cuthbert's' Platers pantomime is in November: 28th 7.30pm, Fri 29th 7.30pm, Sat 30th 2.30pm.

9 Property

SC Heating is up and running. Has been used over the summer to 'dry out' the Fabric. No issues with the system working have arisen. Hole round flue pipe area needs attention to fill in hole/gap.

Fire, Health and Safety Check reports awaited-Benedict Hanney, work needed will be required by law.

Quinquennial Reports highlighting SC Unity Hall Roof as beyond repair (£40,000) already with GK, awaiting full report to include FM-all buildings.

FM Kitchen floor replacement needs progressing.

10 Items from Committee and Parish

SC Heritage Open Day-TH

It was a successful afternoon, those attending found it very enjoyable and for some a trip down memory lane! The Church itself felt very welcoming; the flowers were beautiful and matched the atmosphere perfectly. This year it was very much based on Mgr. John O'Connor and his stewardship of the parish where he formed a very close bond with all sections of the parish. Ann Delaney found many items of memorabilia when she moved house and has donated it. Mgr. O'Connor bought GK Chesterton (author of the Father Brown Stories loosely based on Mgr. O'Conner) and his friend Hilaire Belloc into parish life. TH gave a power point presentation talk 3 times about the history of the fabric of the building of our Grade 2* listed church. The Stations of the Cross and the statues sculptured by Eric Gill were also discussed. Refreshments were served.

Thank you to TH and his helpers for their input.

It was suggested that it might be a good idea to examine the historical materials with a view to making a decision as to what should be done with the archive in order to preserve the close link between the two former parishes which not everybody is aware of.

11. Date & Place for the next Meetings

YC thanked everybody for their attendance at the meeting which closed at 7-15pm.

15th January 2020 at First Martyrs Church Hall

28th March 2020 at St Cuthbert's Unity Hall

12th July 2020 at First Martyrs Church Hall

Action

Property &
Finance
Committee

YC &
JW