

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

held on Sunday, July 30th 2017 in First Martyrs Hall.

1 Welcome and Opening Prayer

Anne Balson (AB) welcomed everybody to the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council and invited Fr Gregory to lead us in prayer

2 Members Present

30+ parishioners registered as being present at the meeting. List available from the minute secretary.

3 Apologies for Absence

Eileen Boyle, Cathy Gorman & John Gorman.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of July 10th 2016

These were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Yvonne Coppin

Seconded: Jennifer Clarke

5 Review of the last 12 months from Key Groups

Finance: Philip Walsh (PW)

Accounts have been completed by Dick Stamp (DS) copies of which were distributed to the meeting showing figures for the last two years. In the last 12 months income has fallen by £13,000 but so have expenses by £9,000 so there is a deficit of £9,700. Last year the deficit was £5,773.

Thanks were expressed to PW & DS for the preparation of these accounts.

Property: Father Gregory (GK)

The Property & Finance meet annually to cover procedures required by the Diocese in the financial domain covering Gift Aid & parish accounts etc. A list was sent last year to the Diocese of our physical requirements; they have responsibility for maintaining parish property safely. We have been asked to carry out health and safety issues first which are required legally. These are being undertaken but parishioners may not see much change as they are largely 'behind the scenes'. Yvonne Coppin pointed out that storerooms and cupboards are being cleared and that lost property should be claimed.

Question What is happening to St Cuthbert's Presbytery at the moment and why has the Council Tax increased (shown on the accounts)?

Answer There is no update on the position of the house. The Council Tax has increased because there was a reduction for single occupancy of the last occupant.

Youth: Liz Firth (LF) via email

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows continue to flourish. As there are fewer girls from our primary school there are fewer attendees at Church Parade. An increasing number of Muslim girls have joined which makes for a diverse group; Liz did not feel it was appropriate to push church parade. She wants to step down as overall leader and is looking for someone to take her place. Any offers will be considered! As ever she thanks the parish for its support! A vote of thanks was expressed for all the effort she has put in with the Youth of the parish for the last 16 years, not just with the troops. It was agreed unanimously.

S.V.P: Philip Walsh (PW)

The S.V.P. has received significant financial support this year which has been very much appreciated but as always need new members and importantly some rejuvenation! Two younger members from St Williams are attending our Conference. There are 2 events coming up: 23rd August Trip to Salford Quays-list in the church porches and 15th September Race Night for the Bradford District SVP to be held at First Martyrs' Hall. All welcome-£5 to include Pie & Pea Supper.

St Cuthbert's Players Tony Hanney (TH)

Benedict Hanney is now running the group. There have been two productions: a show about Margaret McMillan and the Panto in April 'Snow White'. Both were successful and well attended. The next show will be "Oliver" in early 2018.

Social: Mick Moriarty (MM)

No report.

Hospitality Mollie Somerville (MS)

We are very hospitable! This has been reported on at each of the PPC meetings. Funds raised from after weekend Mass coffee and CAFOD lunches at St Cuthbert's in Lent help maintain the facilities, obtain supplies and a donation has been sent to CAFOD. Numbers attending coffee after Mass are down at FM but up at St C.

U.C.M: Mary Gilmartin (MG)

The parish has 4 private members but continue to call themselves the 'UCM'; 7 members are required to form a conference. It would be good to have more and younger new members; all would be most welcome. Two charities particularly supported by the group are the Sylvia Wright Trust & the Leeds Diocesan Mission to Peru. The 'UCM' have decided that the remaining money in the group's fund-£150-would be sent to the Diocesan Priests' Training Fund. The support of the Parish is much appreciated.

Children's Liturgy Christine Walker (CW)

This takes place each Sunday during term-time at the 10.30 Mass. There are currently 9 leaders who work individually or as a pair. The liturgy of the day from the Kevin Mayhew Children's Liturgy book is followed; the children can be asked to explain it to check understanding. Colouring activities follow and art work is produced to carry in procession once back in the church. Volunteers do the offertory procession and towards the end of Mass explain to the congregation what they have done. For the younger children parents/carers might want to come and sit with their children; they would be very welcome. If anybody is interested in joining the group they are welcome to sit in to see what takes place. Qualifications needed are patience and enthusiasm! Helpers are subject to a DBS check.

Justice & Peace David Somerville (DS)

The group have been active for 3 years now and meet regularly. We run Messy Church once every half-term which offers 2 hours of activity to anybody in our wider community, the Food Bank which is well supported and insert the Green Tip in the parish bulletin.

Churches Together Mollie Somerville (MS)

Parish representatives are Mollie Somerville and Joyce Sullivan. We meet every two months and take part in activities such as the Women's World Day of Prayer and the Easter Day Dawn Service on Heaton Hill. The group runs the Ark Charity Shop on Heights Lane.

Flower Team: Yvonne Coppin (YC)

The group would like to thank the parish for its generous donations which enables flowers to be arranged weekly in both churches. They are always very happy to do flowers for any special occasion and will work with individuals to make sure all needs are catered for.

6 Pastoral Parish Council for 2017-18.

Every year the PPC is re-elected for the coming year. Members stay on the council for a term of 3 years and each year a section stands down. This year those due to stand down are Liz Firth (LF), Philip Walsh (PW) and James Wierzbicki (JW), the latter two are willing to stand again but LF has resigned due to family and works commitments. A new member has volunteered to join-Roxanna Drake and she is most welcome. Our thanks go again to Liz for her service on the PPC since its inception. New members are always considered; we meet 3 times a year.

7 Question & Answer Session

Q. Can anything be done with the grounds at First Martyrs'?

A. The contract was terminated because of its cost and because in the winter months there was no work for them to do. It is proposed to set up a task force to do a clear up about 4 times a year-first at the end of September-as discussed at the meeting on 19th July about St Cuthbert's grounds. This can be extended to First Martyrs. There are already volunteers and an appeal will appear in the bulletin so that the burden can be shared.

Q. Is it possible to have some altar servers? Reference was made to the Section 48 Ofsted for St Cuthbert's and the First Martyrs' Primary School earlier this year. In the section under the Catholic Life of the school it says that more children are becoming altar servers but the questioner thought this was inaccurate.

A. This matter is in hand-minutes of the meeting of 19th July.

The statement quoted does NOT refer to the parish but to the school itself. It says "A growing number of pupils are becoming altar servers". It is important to make this distinction; the report was about the primary school and did not refer to the parish at all.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm with a thank you to those attending.