

(DRAFT) Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Sunday 10 Sept 2017

The meeting took place in the church after the end of 11am mass.

Approx 40 parishioners and Fr. Tadeusz were in attendance.

The agenda with proposals where appropriate had been circulated.

Item 1. The Chairman informed the meeting that the diocese had asked for details of intended expenditure on project during the next five years.

He provided the background to the Business Plan which the Parish had prepared and lodged in 2007 in response to the then Cardinal's consultation "Together in Hope." The meeting authorised the updating of the business plan and that it should be submitted with a request that we be permitted to proceed to the building of a new parish house . Reference was made to the funds currently on loan to the diocese and to the parish's current healthy bank balance.

Authority was given to consider the arranging of a mortgage for the parish should that be necessary. The rent from No 58 John Street would substantially contribute to, if not cover, the cost involved. The enlargement of the Michael Room was still required and should be included in our proposed expenditure.

The diocesan office should be asked for a reasoned response which was not received in 2007.

Action : Chairman

Item 2. Appointment of Deputy/Assistant Ministry Organisers.

It was accepted that efforts should be made to recruit an "assistant" /shadow organiser for each ministry from younger generation.

Discussion followed on the identification of the various ministries with the name of the relevant organiser. The Chairman undertook to provide a list which would be displayed/circulated with the parish Bulletin.

Action : Chairman

A brief description of the duties and functions of each ministry should be provided.

There should be a meeting of the existing organisers by the end of November to discuss progress on this matter.

Action : Chairman

In this context it was mentioned that there was a young parishioner who might be prepared to be the parish organist. Fr. Tad was invited to extend a formal invitation to her to do so.

Action Fr. Tad

The Chairman accepted responsibility for their not having been regular meetings of the Parish Council in recent years. It was agreed that these should take place approximately quarterly.

Action : Chairman

Item 3. Progress on Parish Clustering : there has been no feedback from the diocesan office on our response to the series of meetings with St.Margaret's . Each parish had lodged a Response : in answer to a question from the meeting concerning our the content of our parish Response, Fr. Tad pointed out that our Response could be found on the Parish Website.

By reference to "Together in Hope", to the Parish Clustering Consultation, and now re-visiting our original response to "Together in Hope", disappointment was expressed that parishes are asked to participate in these time consuming exercises and little if anything emerges from them by way of Response. Concern was expressed that the same result will emerge from the current exercise. The Chairman was authorised to draw these concerns to the attention of the Archbishop.

Reference was made to the funds held by the diocese on loan from the parish.

Action : Chairman

Item 4 . Report on new stained glass windows.

Fr.Tad reported on the progress on the making of the windows. The first was nearing completion and it remained the target that they would be installed by Christmas.

Joe McKeesick explained that the internal shelving under each of the windows will require to be replaced. It was understood (or at least hoped !) that Robert Mochrie would be prepared to carry this out. The content of proposed dedication plaques was discussed but the final form will be determined after the shelving is completed. The text will be the subject of further discussion.

It remained part of the proposal that a Memorial Book with the names and intentions of donors, including the people of the parish , will be installed at a convenient location near the windows. It will be contained within a display case (again hoped to be done by Bob Mochrie !)

Joe introduced a proposal to install at the same time a plaque listing all the parish priests since the foundation of the parish. There have only been ten. Again location will be determined in due course.

Item 5. Child Protection Issues : Monica Farm (i) reminded parishioners of the requirement in law that members of ministries particularly those involved in home visitations and dealing with children must, as a matter of law, be processed through the Disclosure Procedure.

Monica then (ii) drew attention to the existence within the parish of the Bereavement Group. She emphasised that the members were not bereavement counsellors but provided a support group who are able to attend funerals. Fr. Tad agreed to meet with Monica on this matter.

Action : Fr.Tad/Monica Farm

Item 6. School Liason: Christine McNally raised concern about the liason between the parish and the school. There should be sacramental meetings with parents and consideration given to having a

'family mass' six weekly or so, for the children. Christine agreed to arrange a meeting with those parishioners/parents concerned.

Action : Christine McInally

In connection with communication with the children and young people of the parish in general George Krot proposed that the parish could make use of Facebook and other social media for communication purposes which would be more meaningful to the young people of the parish.

Concerns were raised about the control of such an exercise and George undertook to investigate the matter and to report back in due course.

Action : George Krot.

Item 6 . The condition of the statues on the altar :

Paddy Reid drew attention to the poor condition of the statue of the Sacred Heart on the sanctuary. Paddy was able to confirm that the statue originated from Rosewell and was not part of the fabric of the original church. The dimensions of the statue were also not appropriate.

Fr. Tad agreed and indicated that replacement would be dealt with after completion of the stained glass windows.

Item 7. Parish Archivist :The Chairman proposed that there should be a parish archivist with responsibility for recording in appropriate fashion the history and progress of the parish. David Batty as Chairman of Penicuik Historical Society was recommended to be at least consulted on the matter.

There was consensus that the function was sensible : the question was who would be able to carry it out.

Action : Chairman

Item 8 . Special Collections : The Chairman expressed concern about the number of "special collections" to the extent that they were no longer "special" and were coming close to simply being a routine second collection. Fr. Tad indicated that the initiative for these collections came from the diocese.

Item 9. Date of next meeting : the chairman reminded parishioners that the calling of meetings of the parish council was not in his exclusive gift. Anyone could seek to call a meeting on any particular subject in consultation with Fr. Tad.