

OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST CUTHBERT'S

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 6th September 2017

In attendance: Fr John; Maria Crawford; Anne Berry; Anne Smith; Ann Callan; Simon Carson; Roger Kelly; Maria Louisa Massagli Gallagher; John Harnett; Eugene Brady

Apologies: Duncan Reed

Opening Prayer for the Parish and the Parish Council

1. The Meeting appointed Maria as Chair for the second of her three year term and appointed Roger as Secretary.
2. Maria welcome Fr. John as our new parish Priest and new members of the Parish Council and reminded all members they were here to help lead the parish in new and changing times and that we should move forward with optimism and positivity – blessed as we were with a good community and beautiful church.
3. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed
4. An update of activity at the Escomb Partnership was given.
 - a. Opportunity for the Partnership Chair to speak to the Diocese – there was a call out for thoughts and ideas as the partnership develops. There would be a tour of the churches and a Songs of Praise at St Johns to get the partnership off to a good and social start.

AGREED

- i. That the Partnership should be supported and encouraged as it evolved – looking for the positive.
 - ii. Agreed that Partnership might take a more strategic role in the future – possible looking at central provision of Youth or Admin/Finance resource.
 - iii. That anyone with ideas and thoughts about future development should forward their views to David Instone – our representative on the Partnership(DI)
5. The Parish since our last meeting
 - a. Garden Fete – good outcome though numbers down AGREED
 - i. The event was a splendid Parish day and that all should be congratulated on the great atmosphere and positive outcome
 - ii. That at the first meeting of the 2018 Garden Fete Group thought should be given to new ways of doing some things – e.g. the Fancy Dress; publicity in school and parish and developing our audience.(RK)
 - b. Farewell for Fr. Gordon. Very positive comments about the celebration and the atmosphere in the hall. AGREED
 - i. Thanks and congratulations to all involved.
 - ii. The Parish consider an annual event that brings people together in that same positive and enjoyable setting. (PC)

6. The Convent Agreement

- a. The Recommendations of the Working Group (See Appendix) were discussed in detail. Consideration was given to the options discussed by the working group. It was recognised that the {Parish had agreed to the principle of the Sisters continuing to work among us. AGREED
 - i. That the recommendations of the Working Group be approved subject to the energy bills being considered annually. (PC)
 - ii. That a note be prepared and circulated to the parish (RK)
 - iii. That any comments on the detail of the recommendations be raised with Maria Crawford(MC)
 - iv. That the recommendations be the basis of a new contract with the Daughters of Divine Love Order.(RK)
- b. Farewell to Sister Joy and welcome for Sister Paschaline – AGREED
 - i. That a the parish convene in the Convent on Wednesday 13th September 7.00.p.m. for Evening Prayer a Faith Supper, Social Evening and Presentation
 - ii. That Sister Joy be thanked for her contribution to the parish over the last three years
 - iii. That Sister Paschaline be welcome as the new Superior for Crook Convent

7. The Presbytery

- a. It was noted that there was damp in the back sacristy, utility room and pantry. The Presbytery needed some redecoration and improvement and the office was not perceived to be in a convenient place. AGREED
 - i. That the remedial work be carried out by the Centre subject to their agreement. (SCC)
 - ii. That the office move into the former meeting room
 - iii. That the former Cry Chapel become a general purpose meeting room

8. Young People

- a. Noted that First Communions would now be carried out in Year 4 and there this year there would be no First Communion Programme or services. AGREED
 - i. That Young people be invited to come forward for a confirmation programme(RK)
 - ii. That we seek advice from Middlesbrough catechist concerning youth engagement perhaps taking it down to Key Stage 2 level. (MC)
 - iii. That the Partnership be invited to consider a central role in supporting youth work in the area. (DI)

9. Finance Report

- a. The accounts up to the end of August were tabled. This was in accordance with the Diocesan requirements around change of clergy. Ann Callan was thanked for her work and the position noted as healthy. AGRREED
 - i. The accounts be noted
 - ii. The new Fire Extinguisher Contract be awarded to Woolley (MLMG)

- iii. That the Parish Council continue to be informed of contractual changes and matters of significance.(AC)
- b. Autumn Newsletter and Parish Communications AGREED
 - i. There be an Autumn Newsletter issued(RK)
 - ii. That we continue to look to new ways of keeping the parish and those connected to the parish informed and involved.

10. Parish Reports

- a. Wolsingham issues –We keep Sister Loreto in our prayers
- b. St Cuthbert’s School – start of term, all well - nothing significant to report
- c. St Cuthbert’s Centre – Forthcoming Events. Jazz; Art Show and Christmas Programme all going well. Centre had agreed in principle to use its resources to assist the parish with building and practical matters.(RK)
- d. Liturgy –Noted the Monthly Youth Mass; All Saints/All Souls Thursday 2nd November - list of those who have died would be read out and invitation to families whose had experienced a bereavement to attend Mass (MC) Feast of the Immaculate Conception to be observed.(AS)
- e. Justice and Peace – Anne submitted a note of recent and future activity (see appendix 2)
- f. Saint Vincent de Paul and Minnie Vinnies
- g. Land and Property – Cemetery.
 - i. Noted the concern over marking of the graves. AGREED Undertakers to be asked to mark all graves clearly and with weather proof marking (MLMG).
 - ii. A new path had been requested in the “ New Cemetery” by parishioners and undertakers. Simon had made enquiries. AGREED that a single new path should be built and that the local AAP should be approached to see if there was any funding available. (SC)
 - iii. Noted that grave fees (£150) had been unchanged for some years and that the Council Cemetery charge £1000 per plot. AGREED a new fee should be considered to come into effect on 1st January. This would help pay for the continued maintenance responsibilities.(RK)
- h. Council of Laity - question to be put to Partnership
- i. Churches Together - See Appendix 2.

11. Any other business - Welcome cards - to request a quote from Linton Printers (MC).

Next Meeting:

The meeting closed with a prayer of thanksgiving

APPENDIX 1

THE CONVENT WORKING GROUP MET AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY 2ND JULY.

In attendance *Bill Laws, Eddie Chesters, Tanya Deveraux, Anne Timothy, Roger Kelly, Patrick Timothy and Maria Crawford* – Chair of the Parish Council.

The Group looked at the previous terms, they heard the suggestions set out in the Mother General's letter. Bill raised the concern about the diminishing offertory collections due to members of the church having died or deciding to worship elsewhere. It was agreed this was an area of concern and that the Sisters presence here working with the youth and school might help reverse the decline. It was felt that it was something worth trying.

The Group was also aware that the Sisters sadly knew their presence was not unanimously accepted and it was hoped the new arrangements would be agreed and welcomed by everyone in the Parish and that we could all move forward positively.

It was noted that the previous decision of the Parish Meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of the Sisters' continued presence and mission in the parish and the terms set out below recommended in that context.

RECOMMENDED NEW TERMS

1. The Daughters of Divine Love continue to live and work with us at Crook.
2. One Sister would be a Parish Sister other Sisters as the Mother House deemed appropriate would live as part of the Crook Religious Community
3. The Sisters would stay with the parish as long as both parish and Sisters are able to support the Convent. Six month's notice will be given in the event of one or other party deciding to end the agreement.
4. The Sisters will play a full role in parish life including:-
 - Support for the Parish Priest, pastorally, in the Sacristy and in the Office.
 - Carrying out certain household tasks as agreed with the PP and the Sisters.
 - Visiting the sick and elderly in consultation with the PP and SVP
 - Work with the children of the Parish in School and out of school where appropriate
 - Support the Eucharistic Ministers and lead Eucharistic Services where appropriate and agreed
 - Offer the Convent as a place of prayer, meeting and learning
 - Work with the Justice and Peace Group and Churches Together supporting their mission
 - All roles to be agreed with the Parish Priest and regular meetings to be held to coordinate activity
5. In relation to the financial arrangements - the convent will be offered rent free and the parish to pay the Council Tax on behalf of the Sisters. The Parish would pay a stipend of £3000 per annum £250 per month. The Parish will pay the convent energy bills
6. The Sisters would take responsibility for all other costs including food etc.
7. Costs of the car to carry out the Sisters' mission in Crook and domestic needs would be undertaken by the Friends of the Convent
8. The Parish would seek estimates for an additional bathroom to be installed – this would be subject to the arrangements for capital works agreed by the Parish Council within the Parish Annual Budget
9. The Parish will continue to take responsibility of repairs and maintenance of the Convent building including the window replacement programme agreed by the former Finance Committee.

These recommendations were agreed unanimously and would be notified to the parish by Fr. Gordon.

APPENDIX 2

J&P AND CTIC FEEDBACK FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6TH SEPTEMBER

J&P

1. Poustinia event on Sunday 17th September. Notice in bulletin.
2. Christian Aid Quiz will take place on 16th October at The Forresters. Entry donation of £6.

CTiC

1. Both the Lent Course and the Good Friday witness went well. The Good Friday witness will continue, but additional support is needed.

2. The next CTiC meeting will be on Tuesday 12th September at St Andrew's at 7.00pm.
3. Generate Prayer Walk from Bishop Auckland to Crook will take place on Saturday 30th September. A poster will be available soon with the itinerary. The walk begins at St Anne's at 10.00am and finishes at St Catherine's at 4.00pm. The group should arrive at St Cuthbert's at around 2.45pm. Itinerary below.
4. The next United Service will take place on 22nd October (One World Week) at St Catherine's at 4.00pm.
5. The Christmas Journey for Y2 pupils in the primary schools in Crook begins on Monday 20th November at St Andrew's.

Itinerary for the Generate Prayer Walk

10:00 Assemble at St Anne's
10:10 Leave St Anne's
11:10 Arrive at St Paul's Hunwick
11.40 Leave Hunwick
12.40 Arrive at Howden-le-Wear – lunch stop
13.45 Leave Howden-le-Wear
14.45 Arrive at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert's
15:15 Walk up Church Hill
15.30 Pray from Dowfold Hill
16:00 Arrive at St Catherine's
16:30 End of day