

OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST CUTHBERT'S CROOK

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 7th February 2018 7.00.p.m.



The meeting opened with a Prayer – remembering in particular Fr John's brother who had died that week.

In attendance: Maria Crawford; Anne Berry; Anne Smith; Ann Callan;; Roger Kelly; Maria Louisa Massagli Gallagher; John Harnett; Duncan Reed

Apologies: Fr John; Simon Carson and Eugene Brady

1. **The Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

a. David Instone has had to resign due to pressure of work.

AGREED to thank David for his contribution to the Council and Partnership and to seek a replacement for the Partnership Representative on the Parish Council. The Chair is covering the partnership in the meantime

b. Still seeking someone to take over Safeguarding role in the parish

c. Welcome card price for reprinting £65. AGREED to proceed.

d. Evangelisation Group.

Noted that Fr. John had brought the Group together to help spread the word. The group had agreed in November to send Christmas Cards out on behalf of the parish to representative of all the families who had been bereaved during 2017 as a gesture of support and comfort. This followed their invitation to Mass on All Saints Day when the recently bereaved were remembered especially at that service. It had been much appreciated. The Christmas card included the Advent Newsletter and the little welcome card with a little message saying that they were in our thoughts and prayers. Seventeen cards sent out. One recipient was unhappy about receiving such a card and sent a strong letter sent of complaint to the Chair. The letter was read out. A response had been drafted and agreed with Fr. John. AGREED the response be sent out.

e. Christmas Vigil Mass – a great success and good turnout.

f. Exposition – welcomed by many in the parish. A great time for prayer and thought

2. **Lent and Easter**

The proposed list of events was agreed. Easter services to be agreed the Fr. John on his return.

3. Church Vestments

- a. Father John was concerned that about the quality and condition of the Vestments at church. He proposed the purchase of some new sets of vestments over the next few years. He asked if there could be some separate fundraising for them rather than buy them out of current parish funds. It was also suggested that people might like to buy vestments to celebrate a happy occasion or in memory of a loved one – a small dedication might be sown into the vestments. This had happened in the past. AGREED a note be placed in the bulletin and the parish be asked if they wish to fundraise or donate

4. Building Issues

- a. Footpaths in Cemetery – it was noted that Simon had made enquires about grant to enable to £18,000 footpath cost to be managed but had no success. AGEED a full report to be discussed at the next meeting
- b. Presbytery repairs and updating – the progress with the reception room and damp proofing repairs and the donation of £4000 towards the cost by St Cuthbert's Centre were noted. AGREED the next phase of the works to update the living room, new carpet and three piece suite to proceed.

c. Arrangements for the back of church

Following the request to return to previous arrangement for the back of church, the Parish Council looked at the designs agreed by the Parish and Diocese four years ago. It was noted that phase one of those designs had gone ahead with the installation of the new door, but Fr. Gordon had deferred progress onto phase two. This had then got tied up with the decision to move the office to the back of church. The finances were considered and it was noted that the previous estimates of £22,500 were affordable. AGREED subject to the views of Father John, the phase two designs should proceed. (Fr. John subsequently agreed to proceed.)

d. Church Redecoration.

- i. It was noted that the Contractors prepared to stick to their previously tendered price and subject to the scaffolding prices being likewise current, the lowest tended should be accepted and the work programmed to follow the rearrangement of the church porch.
- ii. Historic Churches Committee are advising on redecoration in the person of Kevin Doonan (Architect) Some tests are to be carried out on the walls to check original colours. Advice is likely to be to take the major beams back to something approaching their original dark pitch pine colour, to keep the Pugin red and perhaps carry that onto the main arch wall above the altar. A design will be drawn up and the parish consulted.

5. Finance Report

- a. Ann Callan had previously prepared and circulated the accounts for 1st September – 31st December. Whilst collections were less than previously, the financial position was good. It was felt that there were people who might go onto standing orders, and that people should be encouraged to think about how much they give.

AGREED to note the report and thank Ann for the sterling work she does with the parishes' accounts and for the generous time she and Maria Louisa give in the office together with the other bulletin and general volunteers. It is much appreciated.

6. Parish Reports

a. PARTNERSHIP ISSUES – THE MISSION.

Maria reported on the very encouraging mission meeting at St John's on Saturday. She reported in detail on the activities and efforts being made to ensure the success of the mission. It was noted that a brochure would go out with all the mission activities. It was suggested that the parish be informed about the Mission. The Parish celebration would be Wednesday 7th March. A separate group would organise the liturgy for that day. During the Primary School week, activities like, reading, singing, flower arranging, art and church cleaning would take place in church to share with the children our faith and our commitment. A Young People organised Mass would take place on March 4th. AGREED to note the report, to get involved and support it with enthusiasm, to arrange a great Parish Celebration, to communicate with and fully engage the people of the parish and to thank Maria and the other leaders and participants for helping to make the "Crook end" of the Mission happen.

- b. Young People - covered above
- c. Evangelisation Group – a further meeting was to be set up with a visit from Prudhoe Parish who had some real success to share with us
- d. St Cuthbert's School - all eyes on the forthcoming Mission. Noted the disappointing numbers at the Christmas Fayre.
- e. St Cuthbert's Centre - great Christmas and New Year activities (Twelfth Night and Oliver Twist) although again slightly disappointing numbers at the Wreath Fair. Great team and tremendous programme of regular and occasional events.
- f. Liturgy – the note of Lent activities had been circulated. Stations of the Cross; Afternoon Prayer and Reflection.
- g. Justice and Peace and Churches Together – Note attached
- h. Saint Vincent de Paul and Minnie Vinnies – continued thanks for their extraordinary work

Any other business - ST PATRICK'S NIGHT – Celebration with Beacon Band Friday 16th March St Cuthbert's Centre.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed with a prayer for the Parish and the forthcoming mission.