

# Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert's Pastoral Parish Council

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2108 at 7.00.p.m.

## MINUTES

*Apologies Mr Duncan Reed and Mr Simon Carson.*

*Persons present Maria Crawford, Chair; Fr John; Ann Callan; Eugene Brady; MariaLuisa Massagli Gallagher; Anne Berry; Anne Smith; Roger Kelly Secretary; Susan Hall; Sisters Paschaline and Mary Jane*

*The Meeting started at 7.00 p.m. with a prayer.*

### 1. Parish Land

- a. Two confidential issues relating to parish land were raised by Andrew Gillingham Diocesan Head of Property. The first related to a restrictive covenant on land at the bottom of Church Hill. Developers have bought the land and asked for the covenant, which the Parish/Diocese had the benefit of, to be lifted. The Restrictive Covenant limited development of the land and interestingly went back to the 1850s and arrangements put in place by Rev. Thomas Wilkinson. The PPC gave its advice and **agreed the Diocese should negotiate on behalf of the parish.**
- b. The second issue related to the land taken in exchange when the new school was built ten years ago. The diocese had been approached by the developer of the Elite Hall requesting purchase of the land. The land was subject to covenants and a claw back deal with Durham Council. It was noted that the Parish had agreed to sale of part of the land ten years ago. This was reaffirmed at the PPC meeting and after a full discussion and advice from the PPC **the Diocese was authorised to negotiate on behalf of the parish**

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- a. In relations to the Tree survey **Agreed the proposals should be actioned and another quotation sought.**

### 3. Finance Report

- a. The finance report was presented. The current downward trend of the collection level was discussed and the delay in the gift aid being distributed by the Diocese
- b. The report was noted and thanks were recorded to Ann for her steadfast and scrupulous work

### 4. Partnership issues

- a. Lots happening - Reconciliation service at Ferryhill; Christmas Dinner at St John's 12<sup>th</sup> December; Prayer Day at Minsteracres; Pilot work on websites being carried out by Tudhoe St Charles;
- b. Re-Scheduling of our Mission Event with children being shown the ropes musically, flower arranging, bells etc. **The Chair to discuss with the school**
- c. Karen Kilby Talk. Date to be agreed with Fr John – the event to be a Partnership event with buffet.

### 5. Justice and Peace and Churches Together Report

- a. Please note the attached appendix. Particular praise for the Holiday Club during the summer recess. Great event with support from volunteers, Jack Drum, Greggs. 22 children on average each week. Hugely successful and thought provoking.

- b. “Christmas Journey” – at St Andrew’s Dawson Street
  - c. Christian Aid Quiz at The Foresters Monday October 15th
6. Building issues
- a. Slow progress on Reordering the back of church and re-decoration. Tenders for the reordering work to be returned by 17<sup>th</sup> September. Church decoration will follow probably in the spring.
  - b. Cemetery Footpaths  
Alternative quote for the cemetery footpaths £3000, same as the material used next to where Fr John parks his car. **Agreed to proceed with the quote from Mr Reg Savory**
  - c. Heating in the Convent  
The heating system in the convent is inefficient with the Aga heating the hot water. It is suggested that regrettably we get quotes to decommission the Aga (it was installed by the Sisters of Mercy over 40 years ago) and install a new hot water heating boiler which will save money in the medium to long term. The convent window replacement programme has been suspended pending the outcome of this discussion. **Agreed to explore the costs of installing a new hot water boiler.**
7. Evangelisation Issues
- a. General – further initiatives in Advent and Christmas to encourage people to come (back) to church. **Agreed to invite the families of those who have been bereaved to All Saints/All Souls Mass and to send them a Christmas Card with our prayers and sympathy, from the parish at a very emotional time, which was largely very well received last year. Agreed to also send a Christmas Card to all people on the parish data base.**
  - b. The Eucharistic Conference in Liverpool was an impressive event with thousands attending, stimulating speakers, good media coverage and much enthusiasm for the event. A report will be produced by the organisers in the near future.
8. Liturgical Issues
- a. Remembrance. **Agreed** to our Mass on Remembrance Sunday being said for those who lost their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts. Bells to be sounded at 11.00.a.m. and hopefully join the Wreath Laying at the War Memorial at 11.30.a.m.
  - b. First Communion – 3 potential first communicants. Concern expressed at the small number of children attending Mass. **Agreed to invite the Head teacher to a special meeting of the PPC to discuss what we can do to support Catholic children and families.** After that meeting we should look to set up a meeting with the children and young people themselves.
  - c. Advent and Christmas – **Agreed that Masses** be 6.00.p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (Carols at 5.30.p.m.) at Crook; 9.00.a.m. Christmas Day at Tow Law and 10.00.a.m. Wolsingham. **Further agreed** that a Penitential Service should be held at Crook subject to Fr John getting some assistance.
9. Social Evening
- a. Noted that a Social evening would be held on 26th October with 4 singers in St Cuthbert’s Centre to support the Vestment fund.

## 10. Annual Meeting.

- a. Date to be agreed with Fr. John one Sunday after Mass in October/November. There are two resignations already received on the PPC a further member will stand down this year. A note to go in the bulletin seeking enthusiastic people if possible to cover SVP, Fundraising, Garden Fete, Children and Youth, Administration and Finance.

## 11. Any other Business

- a. The Sisters are looking to establish a prayer group for young people 12 – 30 yrs., meeting regularly in the convent. They will talk to school chaplains and visit people in the parish hoping to start the group in the New Year.
- b. A suggestion that we have a children's film and party at Christmas time based around the film of the Polar Express asking children and families to come along dressed for the occasion
- c. Firework night to take place as usual this year.

The meeting finished at 9.05.p.m. with a Closing prayer

## Appendix

### Churches Together in Crook

- The Holiday Club, which ran on all six Wednesdays of the summer holidays, was very successful. Volunteers came from the three churches – St Catherine's, St Andrew's with Howden Chapel and St Cuthbert's. (The Salvation Army ran their own club). Registration and a snack began at 10.00am, followed by both sporting and craft activities. Lunch was provided at midday. The meals were cooked by volunteers and we tried to offer a healthy menu. This event was free for children and their parents/carers. We were able to secure funding from Greggs and Durham County Council. Greggs also offered us unsold food from the previous day. Families were invited to take home doggy bags full of pasties, sausage rolls, scones etc. The feedback was incredibly positive and we are planning to repeat this on the Wednesday of half term. It was lovely to see the churches working so well together.
- The United Service will be hosted at St Cuthbert's on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 4.00pm. The theme is One World Week.
- The Christmas Journey for primary school children will take place at St Andrew's as usual. The dates are yet to be confirmed.
- Remembrance Service will begin at 11.00am on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the War Memorial. Normally, this event takes place in the afternoon, but it was felt that, given the importance of this year's centenary of the Armistice, 11.00am was a more fitting hour.

### Justice and Peace

- Members of the group took part in a CAFOD 'Share the Journey' walk from Crook to Howden on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. They were few in number, but were committed participants and had the privilege of carrying the Lampedusa Cross both to and from Howden. A member's dog also shared the journey!
- There will be a Family Fast Day soup lunch in October. The date is yet to be confirmed.
- The annual Christian Aid quiz night will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm at the usual venue.