

Minutes of the Meeting of St Teresa's Parish Council, Thursday 11th April 2019

Present: Mgr Sean Healy, Jim Murray, John Ojakovoh, Ajith Antony, Aran Houlihan-Burne, Pat O'Brien, Rebecca Nelson, Trish Fearn, Trisha Barker, John Guilfoyle.

1 Fr Sean opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3 Apologies from Brent Adonis and Fr Shyju

4 **Matters Arising:**

4.1 **Finance**

Tony Frall will attend the next Parish Council in July and will include information on Gift Aid.

4.2 **Parish Mission**

The new dates for the Parish Mission are 11-16th May 2020.

4.3 **Fete Preparation**

John Guilfoyle reported that preparations for the Parish Fete on 29th June have already begun. Most of the major stallholders are happy to continue. Toys will need some help. Trisha stressed that we need to get some of the younger parishioners involved, perhaps shadowing existing stallholders initially. She has already made contact with some younger parishioners.

John said that, for various reasons, we have lost our matched giving this year.

The Mongu update will be held this coming Saturday, 13th April. Currently, 40 people are expected to attend.

John G, Rebecca, Trisha

4.4 **Welcome and Communication**

Trish reported that they had decided to begin by updating the Welcome Pack. All the people currently listed there have been e-mailed. It is hoped that feedback from the different groups will be forthcoming so that the Welcome Pack and Website can be updated. This raised the question of whether people who were listed in the Welcome Pack were willing to have their contact details included. If they objected to this, then the Parish Office contact details could be used.

The updating of the Welcome Pack will lead to the updating of the Website.

Another issue was the length of time the Calendar covered – 6 months. Fr Shyju to be consulted to see if this could be extended.

Annie suggested that we could institute some mechanism whereby new Parishioners could be visited by someone of a similar age. This would entail Trisha or Annie being alerted when new Parishioners join us and presents an opportunity for a Welcome Ministry, which we do not have at the moment and which would enable other Parishioners to become involved.

Annie and Trish

5 **Relevance of Parish Council to Parishioners**

Jim posed the question 'are there areas of interest we, as Council Members, could be responsible for?' Should we consider whether individuals could take an area of activity in the Parish in the context of being a reference/liaison point for the Parish Council?

Pat said that we needed a Photoboard in the Narthex with pictures and names of Council Members and perhaps including details of the Masses we attend.

Pat undertook to ask Kevin Broderick if he would be willing to take the necessary photographs. Pat O'Brien

Jim invited the Members to think about what had been discussed. All members

6 **Stewardship/Skills Audit**

On the basis that, in a Parish such as ours, there must be people with a wide range of abilities, can we invite them to come forward and give these skills to the Parish?

A questionnaire was proposed with an outline of skills, leaving space for people to add to those suggested. It is essential that these be followed up quickly.

Fr Sean proposed that Pentecost would be a good time to do this. Fr Sean, Fr Shyju, John Guilfoyle.

He also told us that the Director of Pastoral Activities would be giving a Workshop on Volunteering, the date is June 22nd. The aim is to have people from the five Parishes in our Pastoral Area attend this workshop.

This could perhaps be a springboard to more volunteering in the Parish. It would be good if one or more members of the Parish Council could make themselves available to attend this.

7 **Fabric and Maintenance**

John G identified three main items: church flooring, carpet on altar, re-decorating.

In addition:

- a) Fr Sean had been in contact with someone regarding the work needing to be done on the Church windows.
- b) Pointing and loose stone in Martyrs' Chapel.
- c) Areas of damp in Sacristy and old porch. As roof has been fixed, this can be dealt with during re-decoration.
- d) Main Kitchen design.

John reported that the kitchen was designed and built as a made-to-measure commercial kitchen. Suggestions received for re-designing the kitchen will lead to major issues with the plumbing and emergency access to electrics.

A refit was considered to be too big a job and too expensive. However, it could be possible to acquire further items for the kitchen if funds were available.

Advice will be taken.

John Guilfoyle

- e) Solar Panels

The fitting of Solar Panels was considered at the design stage of the Parish Centre and were considered to be uneconomic. Jonathan Lloyd-White will check back on the files to see exactly what was said.

Philip Moroz has taken a look at the possibility of adding them.

Meanwhile there are problems with the availability of roof space. The only part of the roof that can be accessed is full of plant.

Fr Sean said that the Diocesan view would be that the 'payback' was not great and that some church buildings were not constructed to a high enough standard. Additionally, there are aesthetics to be considered.

The general consensus was that at the moment a feasibility study is not an option.

f) Outside water problem

Father Sean told us that the problem concerns the drains. A report is to be presented to the Diocese and we need to await the outcome of this. Fr Sean

g) CCTV

We are still waiting for the quote to come through. Fr Sean

8 **Parking**

Members have been made aware of the difficulties Parishioners face finding a parking space in the car park, at Mass times and days such as Good Friday when special services are taking place because of the space taken up by Bekonscot visitors.

Our agreement with Bekonscot states that Parishioners and Church visitors have priority with the parking spaces but this is not always adhered to by the Bekonscot staff manning the car park.

Fr Sean is to contact Bekonscot asking them to re-iterate our parking agreement and ensure that their staff are fully aware of these.

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It was pointed out that Sarah now places a notice on the front of the Church outlining the week's coming events so that car parking staff can be alerted.

Furthermore Bekonscot have a joint responsibility for the maintenance of the car park.

9 **Other Business**

a John G has been approached by someone asking if we could have a Children's Mass on a regular basis. The previous Mass for Children had been a great success.

Fr Sean would like some soundings on this. He had suggested to Victoria and Pat (Children's Liturgy) that maybe one a term could be tried. The Mass would be published in the previous week's Newsletter.

b Can people be encouraged to put their Newsletters and Hymn Books at the end of the benches after Mass to make it easier for these to be collected up.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.