

Minutes of the Meeting of St Teresa's Parish Council

Thursday 30th January 2020

Present: Mgr Sean Healy, Jim Murray, John Guilfoyle, Rebecca Nelson, Trish Fearn, Pat O'Brien, Annie Dunster, John Ojokovoh, Ajith Antony, Brent Adonis.

1. The meeting opened with a Prayer.

Jim acknowledged the unhappy times that Trish has suffered in recent months, and Tony's great contribution to the Parish. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her.

In reply, Trish acknowledged the enormous support she and her family have had from everyone.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Trisha Barker, Fr Shyju

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

4. **Matters Arising**

- 4.1 Welcome Pack

Regarding the Welcome Pack. Annie and Trish have worked on this. Annie has all the relevant information and now needs to put it all together. She will be doing this.

Annie and Trish F

Skills Questionnaire

Jim invited comments from the meeting regarding the Questionnaire which Pat has produced.

Annie suggested the addition of a box for 'Any Other Observations.' Dissemination – 'Are we going to put it on line?' She suggested Survey Monkey.

Several suggestions were made regarding the latter, including Survey Monkey. Brent suggested that it could be produced in Word and converted to HTML and put on the Parish Website.

Pat had investigated Survey Monkey and obtained some quotes. He is to make further investigations and also direct HTML to Brent to see if can be put on Parish Website.

Discussion followed on how we were to distribute the Questionnaire to Group Leaders. This done, the Leaders could then disseminate to their group members and get their input.

John G suggested that we include an option for extra contributors to give their contact details.

Ajith pointed out the importance of not raising people's expectations and Pat said we could include a disclaimer at the bottom of the survey.

All this having been achieved, the Council will look at the key messages coming from it, including funding required.

4.2 CAFOD

Sue Seagrave has arranged a plan of action. There is to be a meeting next Tuesday, 4th February 2020.

4.3 Financial Report

This is in hand and waiting to be signed off. Fr Sean will speak to Tony Frall about how to share it with everyone.

The report will include a Gift Aid appeal.

Fr Sean

5 Parish Fete

5.1 Change of date

The change of date to Saturday 4th July was acknowledged.

5.2 Formation of a Working Party.

John G and Rebecca reported on this

Rebecca and Kate Breen have taken over as Stallholder Co-ordinators. Rebecca and
Kate

Virtually all current Stallholders have confirmed that they can run their stalls again. In addition there have been expressions of interest in helping out.

Pat O'Brien is in charge of the Setting Up operation.

Pat O'Brien

Trisha F noted that we have not yet had an appeal for unwanted Christmas Presents to use at the Fete.

John G said that we need a big drive for Matched Giving and for both the Raffle and Silent Auction prizes.

5.3 Renewal of Equipment

Pat O'Brien stated that renewal of the Marquee Equipment is urgent, having witnessed how worn and unsafe the current stock is. He is in favour and has investigated the cost of Pop-Up Gazebos. £120-£180 is the average cost, plus we will need leg weights for them to increase safety.

The area we use for the stalls would be equivalent to about 8 of these Gazebos, incurring a cost of approximately £1600.

It was decided to go ahead with this.

Pat O'Brien and John G to discuss dimensional requirements. John G, Pat O'Brien

6 Pastoral Area Gathering

The Gathering took place on 2nd November 2019.

There are five Parishes in our Cluster. Brent represented St Dunstons. Various people led the discussions.

St Teresa's Needs:

6.1 Activities for Young People

We are short of Activities for young people.

Fr Sean reported that since this event, it has been decided to have another Gathering (21st March 2020) at St Teresa's where the focus will be on Young People.

Brent spoke about WordFest, the Diocesan initiative scheduled for June. More information will be available from April.

The day will include TED talks. 10 minute talks which will include items such as Mini Vinnies. Neil Roseman will address this.

There will be presentations from people already involved in Youth Work, CAFOD, etc.

A Plenary Session will be aimed at people who may be interested in Youth Ministry. Literature is being prepared, plus word of mouth to publicise the event.

Brent mentioned having combined activities.

We can be proud of:

SVP
Coffee and Company
Post Mass Coffee
The work we do for Africa, Mongu, etc.
Ecumenical work: Christmas Lunches
Our Clergy
London Run and One Can Trust

6.2 Lay Formation for Older People

Some older people think that their Catholic Education stopped on the day they left school.

Fr Sean suggested some sessions focussing on the ways the Church has changed. Perhaps people could be encouraged to send in questions.

Lenten Sessions addressing ways in which we could deepen our faith was a suggestion.

Brent mentioned talks during Lent on the Gospel of Matthew.

6.3 Follow on after First Holy Communion

Jim asked if there will be a meeting about follow-up to First Holy Communion.

Fr Sean said that there is ongoing discussion about what happens after First Holy Communion.

John G asked if there will be Presentations on the 21st March.

6.4 Newsletter Makeover

The general mood was that the Newsletter was 'boring'. Sometimes the same items are included for several weeks.

There was much discussion on how things could be changed including mixed typefaces, clustering under headings of New Items, This Week's Events, i.e. what is new and what is immediate.

Fr Sean spoke of the constraints of space, the Mass Readings being on the same sheet. He was happy to sit down with Susannah and Brent and see what could be done.

It was suggested that we could have a separate Parish Mass Booklet containing all the regular prayers and responses. Fr Sean, Brent

7 Parish Mission, 9th-15th May 2020.

Father Sean handed out a copy of the Information Sheet which will be issued to all parishioners.

Ajith offered to help with the promotion.

Ajith.

Council Members were invited to look at the sheet and comment on it.

8 Lenten Activities including Ecumenical

Fr Sean had been in discussion with Sharon from St Michaels and the hope is for one or two joint Stations of the Cross Services. Fr Sean is to discuss with Hilary, the Lay Worker from St Michaels. Fr Sean
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Fr Sean met with all local ministers on 29th January and they shared their experiences concerning Ecumenical work. It was a good meeting, held at the Briggittine Convent.

9 Annual Parish Meeting

Jim asked if we were ready for an Annual Parish Meeting. Do we need to ask people for the reactions to having one?

Rebecca asked if any Parishioners had approached any of us with questions for the Parish Council?

There was an article in last week's Newsletter asking for suggestions. Fr Sean reported that he had been asked if the Baptismal Font could be moved as it posed access problems for wheelchair users and some pushchairs.

Others had asked where they could find the Minutes of the Council and were directed to the Parish Website.

The proposed Meeting should be announced in a re-vamped Newsletter. The results of the Needs survey can be presented at the meeting along with the Financial Report.

Ajith pointed out that as a Council we have made a series of decisions at our meetings.

Agreed to holding an Annual Parish Meeting. Date to be decided at next meeting of the Parish Council.

10 Fabric and Maintenance

Loose Flooring

Anne Norbury has temporarily fixed some loose flooring at the entrance to the main Church. It needs a more permanent job doing. Sarah to contact Handyman Paul.

Hymn Books

There are a number of old Hymn Books and Music at the foot of the stairs to the choir loft. These are thought to present a fire/safety hazard. Can we remove them, please?

Car Park

Now the Car Park has been tidied we need to discuss with Bekonscot their responsibility to share the care of the Car Park. Bekonscot re-opens on the 15th February. Fr Sean to speak to Bekonscot Management.
Fr Sean

Bin Store

More junk has been dumped in the Bin Store. If we are looking at CCTV provision can we have some cover there, please?

Letting of the Hall and the condition of the Kitchen after these lettings.

We have experienced occasions when the kitchen has been left in a terrible mess after lettings. Are we retaining deposits when this happens?

Fr Sean said that he would speak with Sarah about filling in the Hire Form and getting deposits from Users. Fr Sean

11 Any Other Business

Clearing Hymn Sheets and Newsletters after 8.45a.m. Sunday Mass

Annie brought up this issue and suggested that Hymn sheets be handed out by the Welcomers together with the Newsletters.

She will talk to Kevin Broderick about this. Annie

Windscreen Stickers for Parking

Pat has researched the cost of producing Stickers for Parishioners to purchase at a nominal cost and display on their windscreens, particularly during Bekonscot season.

There has been a problem with parking for Mass or Parish Business during this season, even though those attending Church should be given priority. John G said that it should be pointed out to the Wardens that all spaces on the Church side of the barriers are for Church use.

According to Pat's research, 300 stickers will cost about £125.00

Purchase of these was approved. They will be obtainable from the Parish Office.

The Meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th April 2020 at 8pm.