

ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014 2 JUNE 2014 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Monsignor Kerr (President)	Stephen Dolan	Steve Hand
Bruce Royan (Chairman)	Trish Dolan	Peter Nicholson
John Wastle (Secretary)	Mark Dorrian	Ian Stewart

Also present

Josephine Beech-Brandt	Alex Cameron	Alan Chudziak
Patricia Cairns	Anne Donnelly	Ian McCafferty.

Introduction and welcome

1. The Annual General Meeting was preceded by a short ordinary business meeting of the Council. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those parishioners who were attending the AGM.

Apologies

2. Apologies were received from Council members Agnes Dolan and Karen Glasgow; and from Margaret Addly, Liz Brown, Anne-Marie Douglas and Bill Douglas.

Opening prayer

3. Mgr Kerr led those present in reciting the Parish Pastoral Council Prayer.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 3 June 2013 and matters arising

4. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. All the action points arising from the minutes had been addressed by the Council, and no further matters were raised.

Annual Report for Session 2013-2014

6. The report had previously been circulated to members and were distributed to parishioners attending the meeting. Copies had also been made available at the back of Church the previous Sunday. Introducing the report, the Secretary noted that there was no fixed format or content for the Council's annual report: these were left to the Secretary's discretion. He added that, strictly speaking, the report should focus on the matters considered by the Council during the Session but it would be tedious to record relatively minor matters, especially when so many important things were happening in the parish with little or no input or intervention by the Council.

7. For those reasons, the Session's report was a mixed bag. It recorded fully the main topics dealt with by the Council - the parish survey and the work of the Liturgy Links Group - and listed the range of other Council business. However, the Secretary had thought it appropriate to cover at length the valuable and wide-ranging work of the Outreach and Justice & Peace Group, and the achievements of younger parishioners and those who work with them to deliver the Children's Liturgy, the Family and Children's Masses and Youth Rock.

8. The meeting was content with the 2014 Annual Report. During discussion, members emphasised the value of Youth Rock and the Family Masses and highlighted the success of the Eco-Congregation photographic exhibition which had engaged a wider range of parishioners. It was noted that the Council's minutes had not been posted on the parish website and on the notice board for some time [**Action: Secretary**].

9. It was suggested in discussion that a fresh approach to the Annual Report should be tried next year. For example, there might be a formal report for the AGM covering only the year's PPC's business, with a supplement commissioned by the PPC from all the leaders of parish teams and Ministries reporting their work and achievements during the year. Collation of the material would be a sizeable task but worth doing once a year. Alternatively, an edition of the parish magazine might be devoted to the supplementary material. It was agreed that the Council should be invited to consider these matters in the next Session [**Action: Secretary**].

Parish survey

9. The Secretary referred to the summary in paragraphs 5-7 of the Annual Report outlining the preparatory work and the procedures for taking the survey in November 2013 but this did not reflect the huge effort put in by PPC members, in committee and individually, to make the exercise a success. The hard work continued in the first half of 2014 with the analysis of the returns and recording the results, culminating in the summary paper prepared by Steve Hand which had previously been circulated to members.

10. Introducing his paper, Steve noted that the overwhelming majority of returns had been very positive. Many complimentary comments and helpful suggestions were received along with some negative points which needed to be addressed. Council members had read all the comments in the returns and recognised that their challenge now was to work to make a good parish even better. In his sermon on 1 June, Mgr Kerr had welcomed the survey, acknowledging the value of parishioners' participation and emphasising the Council's commitment to considering all the responses in an open and positive manner.

11. Along with detailed papers prepared earlier, the summary paper would to a large extent set the PPC's agenda for the future, focusing on the following six key areas:

The Mass	Fabric, technology and information
Other services and prayer opportunities	Parish community and involvement with the wider community
Parish organisations and activities	
General and miscellaneous matters.	

The Council would aim to provide parishioners with frequent updates on these matters, setting out progress relating to suggestions that have been acted on and plans to implement others. It will also be important to explain clearly why some suggestions and criticisms cannot be addressed in the way that the relevant respondents might wish.

Membership of the Council

12. The Chairman reported that three current members of the Council, including himself, were standing down at this meeting. The others were Karen Glasgow and Steve Hand. The Chairman thanked Steve and Karen for their service to the parish and for their support during his term of office. Mgr Kerr, as President of the Council, paid tribute to the retiring members, and indeed to all the Council members, for their hard work and achievements in recent times. He was particularly grateful to Bruce Royan for his service during three years as Secretary to the Council and two years as Chairman. Peter Nicholson was unanimously elected by members to succeed Bruce as Chairman of the Council.

13. Prior to the AGM there had been one vacancy on the Council, the retirals raising the number to four. The Secretary would advertise the vacancies in the parish newsletter and arrange an election if more than for nominations were received [**Action: Secretary**].

Dates of next meetings

The dates of the Council meetings for Session 2014-15 were provisionally agreed as:

2014	2015
Monday 8 September	Monday 9 February
“ 10 November	“ 13 April
“ 8 December	“ 8 June.

Any other business

No other business was raised.

Closing prayer

Mgr Kerr led the meeting in prayer and gave a blessing.