

## **ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 8 JUNE 2015 IN THE PARISH ROOM**

#### **Present**

Monsignor Kerr (President)	Stephen Dolan	Roger Eggins
Peter Nicholson (Chairman)	Trish Dolan	Jacqueline Heron
John Wastle (Secretary)	Mark Dorrian	Ian Stewart
Alan Chudziak		

#### **Introduction and welcome**

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

Margaret Addly	Joyce Cullen	Ann Royan
Liz Brown	Eileen McCamley	Bruce Royan
Alex Cameron		

#### **Apologies**

2. Apologies were received from Council members Agnes Dolan, Anne Donnelly and Paul Gilmour; and from Josephine Beech-Brandt.

#### **Opening prayer**

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

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 2 June 2014**

4. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Reporting on matters arising from the minutes, the Secretary referred to paragraph 9 in which the Council was invited to consider a fresh approach to the Annual Report. 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. At its meeting on 8 September 2014, the Council agreed that a separate annual report on parish activities should be compiled.

5. The Secretary stated that contributions had been provided by the leaders of the parish Ministries etc, and had been brought together in a 20-page draft which so far had been sent only to contributors and Council members, with copies also posted in the parish room and on the website. Copies were distributed to parishioners attending the meeting. In discussion the following points were made:

- the report was something of an experiment, with no idea of how it would turn out
- the content was generally as given by the contributors, with little editorial intervention

- Alan Chudziak's report on church property was too extensive for inclusion in the report but had been widely circulated for information
- further work would be needed to improve the presentation before the report could be given wider circulation, if the Council decided to proceed with publication
- the report was welcomed as an encouraging reflection of an active and vibrant parish, with lay people working together for the benefit of the parish and beyond
- it might help to attract more volunteers to support parish activities
- presentationally, it might be worth changing the headings to a more relaxed style such as Family Life, Charitable Activities.

6. The meeting agreed that the report should be published, perhaps with limited distribution depending on production costs, and Jacqueline Heron to help with improving the presentation. Subject to parishioners' views, the Council should arrange for a report to be prepared each year on a sessional basis rather than by calendar year. The Council recorded thanks the Secretary for drawing the material together.

7. All the other action points arising from the minutes of the 2014 AGM had been addressed by the Council, and no further matters were raised.

### **Chairman's report**

8. The Chairman noted that this had been a remarkably busy year for the Council, amply demonstrated by the comprehensive written reports that had been prepared and widely distributed. He therefore wished only to say a few words relating to the two main items of our business in the past year and to take a brief look ahead.

9. Processing the large number of wide-ranging responses to *the parish survey* had taken up a good deal of time and resources. We have been well served in this by our sub-groups, particularly the Liturgy Links Group which diligently considered all of the huge number of responses relating to the Mass and our other forms of worship before making its own recommendations to the Council. Another sub-group advised on a number of suggested technical enhancements relating to the presentation of the liturgy, most of which the Council declined to pursue on grounds of cost or practicability. The Council has still to consider whether to pursue a range of social and cultural events suggested in the survey responses.

10. Since the New Year our attention has focused on the *Archbishop's letter on parish amalgamation* and its consequences. We have worked hard to keep parishioners informed of the fast moving developments between January and the end of April when we learned that the Archbishop intended to meet all the individual clusters before deciding on the next steps, in a programme which will start this autumn and probably run into 2016. The Chairman emphasised that the Archbishop had yet to change his mind on his basic approach and that we needed to continue our efforts to make our views heard.

11. In February, we hosted a friendly and co-operative meeting with representatives of the other parishes in the cluster; and in April we held an open meeting for our own parishioners to discuss the issues. Both meetings were very constructive, focusing strongly on the current and potential role of the laity, and led to letters to the Archbishop setting out their views. The notes of these meetings and letters were distributed to parishioners and posted in the parish room and on the website.

12. The Chairman noted that the last year had reinforced his picture of an active and vibrant parish, with new initiatives under way all the time, such as the Eco-Congregation Group's success in having St Peter's participate in the Doors Open Day in September - an opportunity for people to view the architecture and other features of our building, perhaps for the first time. In closing, the Chairman recorded his personal thanks to everyone who volunteers in whatever way to benefit the parish, from Council members to those who support our fundraising efforts for SCIAF and the SVDP, and those who work for our children and young people. He hoped ideas would continue to flow and that the work of our lay volunteers would continue to grow.

### **Annual Report for Session 2014-2015**

13. The report had previously been circulated to members and copies were distributed to parishioners attending the meeting. Copies had also been made available at the back of Church the previous Sunday and were posted in the parish room and on the website. Presenting the report, the Secretary noted that, in the light of the decision to prepare a comprehensive report of parish activities (paragraph 4 above), this year's report recorded only matters dealt with by the Council during the Session.

14. In addition to work on the parish survey and parish re-organisation as mentioned by the Chairman, the report described the development of a policy on parish support for charitable causes; the current and future provision of the altar server Ministry; and the improvement of parish communications through the upgrading of the website and the completion of online and printed directories. The report also noted that Council business included support for bereavement counselling; work on preparing a modern constitution for the Council; revised arrangements for readers at Sunday Mass; and the official recognition of St Peter's as an eco-congregation. The Council's Annual Report for Session 2014-15 was accepted by the AGM.

### **Membership of the Council**

15. The Chairman reported that three current members of the Council were standing down at this meeting: Paul Gilmour who had been unable to devote sufficient time to the Council because of business commitments; the Secretary after serving a 3-year term; and Trish Dolan after four years' service to the Council. The Chairman thanked them all for their service to the parish and the Secretary for his support during the Chairman's first year in office. He noted that Trish was also a Youth Rock helper, was now joining the Reader Ministry and had recently been co-opted as a "guest editor" of the parish newsletter.

16. The retirements meant that there were three vacancies to be filled. At Trish Dolan's prompting, Agnieszka Allan, a parishioner with young children, had applied for membership of the Council as an opportunity to become more involved in parish life. In addition, Jacqueline Heron and Ian Stewart had completed their first 3-year terms of office and were willing to serve further terms. The meeting agreed that Agnieszka should be appointed to the Council for an initial 3-year term; and that Jacqueline and Ian should be re-appointed for second terms. The Secretary would continue to advertise the remaining two vacancies in the parish newsletter and an appeal would be made at Mass, if necessary.

17. 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 congratulated them on their achievements in recent times. He added his personal appreciation of the efforts of all our volunteers and his pleasure that so many parishioners were working together for the good of the parish.

### **Dates of next meetings**

18. The dates of the Council meetings for Session 2015-16 were provisionally agreed as:

<b>2015</b>	Monday 14 September	<b>2016</b>	Monday 8 February
	“ 9 November		“ 11 April
	“ 7 December		“ 13 June.

### **Any other business**

19. Ian Stewart gave notice that the annual Advent Mass for the sick and elderly would be held on Saturday 12 December and the Family Carol Party would take place on Sunday 20 December, both at Gillis Centre.

20. From the floor, Joyce Cullen reported that arrangements had been made for a training session on Wednesday 23 September 2015 for all those involved in the Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection scheme within the parish. The session would be held in the parish room by an Archdiocesan trainer qualified to provide expert input and guidance. While the training was primarily aimed at volunteers in the field, others would be welcome to attend to learn about an important and interesting aspect of everyday life.

### **Closing prayer**

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