

ST PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Monsignor Kerr (President)	Stephen Dolan	Roger Eggins
Peter Nicholson (Chairman)	Agnes Dolan	Alan Chudziak
Aga Allan	Ian Stewart	Mark Dorrian (Secretary)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Council members Anne Donnelly and Jacqueline Heron.

Opening prayer

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

Minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2015 and matters arising

3. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
4. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 4.1 Procedures for receiving newcomers to the parish had been drafted by John Wastle. It was felt that people coming to St Peter's for particular events such as baptismal courses should be encouraged to become part of the congregation of St Peter's. The baptismal preparation course and other courses will be approached about this. Peter Nicholson volunteered to be the contact person and will ask for a second volunteer from the Parish Pastoral Council if one is needed.
 - 4.11 John Wastle had advised that newcomers to the parish were being handed forms for filling in their contact details. It was commented that it might be better at the same time to ask for a person's name and a number. This suggestion would be put to the Welcoming Team. (MD)
 - 4.12 It was suggested and agreed that an annual get together would be a good way for newcomers to the parish to feel welcome and to get to know other newcomers. The Welcoming Team to be asked to suggest a date. (MD)
 - 4.2 A two-page summary reporting the outcome of parish survey responses to parishioners had been included as an attachment to a Parish Newsletter. Peter Nicholson was commended for this work and being able to summarise the work on just two pages.
6. Printed annual report on parish activities. Costs were discussed in relation to proposed print number of 100. It was felt general advertising sales were unlikely. Aga volunteered to contact William Purves to see if they would pay for it in return for an advert.

8. Doors Open Day had been a huge success. 350 visitors, 50 parish volunteers, £226 raised for SCIAF, good parish project to get everyone working together and talking, good outreach in the neighbourhood (which we could improve on next year) and excellent research resources updated.
14. Facebook – Contact had been made with Carmel to find out about the starter pack for parishes interested in Facebook. No reply had been received. Stephen Nolan volunteered to follow up.
5. Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy
It was commented that the Archbishop was working on ways to mark the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. There had been some suggestion of changing the Lenten Mass dedicated to Stations of the Cross to a Reconciliation Mass. During Advent there was to be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 7pm and 8pm on Thursdays.
On the 3rd and 10th of December, after the Exposition in St Peter's Parish Room the Diocesan Retreat Team will conduct an Advent Evening from 8-9pm to which all again are most welcome. It will have the Cafe setting, which is well known to all at St Peter's.
6. McLellan Commission Report
There are a number of new initiatives regarding safeguarding.
- New guidelines are being drafted.
 - New guidelines regarding known sex offenders attending Mass are being drafted.
 - New training for all volunteers.
 - Joyce Cullen is coordinating some work for St Peter's. There was training in late September which was very well attended. It involved a discussion of case studies. It was felt that this should be done every year. Peter Nicholson agreed to contact Joyce Cullen to find out if there was anything else coming up. (PN).
7. Parish clusters
St Peter's has been notified that for the purposes of the discussion with the Archbishop, St Pat's and St Albert's will be added to the cluster. The meeting will be held on Saturday 5 December at 10am in St Columba's Hall.
8. Syrian Refugee Appeal
It was initially proposed that St Columba's Hall would be offered for use by refugees. However, the commitment required is for three years and that length of commitment is just not possible. St Peter's will remain vigilant though and will be involved in providing help and support once there is a clearer picture of what help and support is needed. It was suggested that the Justice and Peace Group could liaise with St Columba's. Peter Nicholson to speak to Anne Havard about this. (PN)

9. School of Evangelisation – “What makes a parish vibrant?”
Unfortunately, there was no attendance by Parish Council Members at this seminar so there was no report back.
10. Reports from sub-group leaders
 - 10.1 The Liturgy Links Group had now addressed all 80 points in the Parish Survey related to it. This included 36 “singular” points which were comments made by just one individual. Recommendations had been passed to Mgr Kerr. The Group was thanked for its diligent work.
 - 10.2 Parish survey: fabric, technology and information. The scaffolding on the eastern wall had been erected to deal with stonework and drainage repair. The original estimate cost of £3,800 is likely to be exceeded.
11. A number of reports on current parish pastoral activities were submitted:
 - It was commented that John Smith, a well-known layperson in St Peter’s and former member of the Parish Pastoral Council, was to be ordained a Deacon on Saturday 24th September 2016.
 - The photo exhibition being organised by the Eco-Congregation had been postponed until January.
 - Monsignor Kerr encouraged PPC Members to attend Parish Social events over the Christmas period. This included the Mass for the sick and the Family carol party.
12. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 8 February 2016.
13. Monsignor Kerr closed the meeting with prayer.