

ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 10 APRIL 2017 IN THE PARISH ROOM (Names in bold represent action points)

Present

Fr Douglas (President), Peter Nicholson (Chairman), Roger Eggins, Alan Chudziak, Joyce Cullen, Ian Stewart, Salvatore Callea, Anne Donnelly, Aga Allan
Apologies: Liz Brown

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed Fr Douglas to his first meeting and members introduced themselves including their particular interests in the parish.

Opening prayer

2. Fr Douglas led the Parish Pastoral Council Prayer.

Members and Secretary

3. There has been no change in membership since the last meeting, and no new volunteers coming forward. However Liz Brown has offered to fill the secretary role. In her absence the Chairman and Roger Eggins both took notes.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 February 2017

4. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Eco-Congregation Application – Our assessment visit resulted in the parish achieving its Second Award. Some recommendations were made:

- Link with St Peter's and St Thomas's, which are both eco-schools (Aga Allan is involved with St Peter's eco-activities, which is an active programme);
- Action to reduce the church's carbon footprint (options are somewhat limited but there are funds to invest in LED lights for the house, and **Alan Chudziak** is exploring the possibility of solar panels for the flat roof);
- Encourage parishioners to act to reduce their carbon footprint (planned for September);
- Continue links with Waitrose and other local stores.

The Eco Group would like to have a presentation of our new plaque during Sunday Mass. **Liz Brown** to confirm whether Angela Campbell (assessor) is available for this.

5.2 Facebook page – No response yet for appeal for new administrator of page to succeed Stephen Dolan. **Chairman** to approach Youth Rock and others for possible interest.

Parish Clusters

6. No new information. Queried whether notes available of last cluster meeting.

Building fabric and maintenance report

7. Alan Chudziak had prepared a detailed written report on work that had taken place on the building. He further confirmed that the temporary microphone arrangement has been replaced with a permanent one and there should be a consistent sound quality from the altar. The Property Committee has also been enlarged and in addition to himself and Fr Douglas now comprises Bruce Royan, Archie Cairns, Angus MacKellaig and Bill Douglas.

Alan also reported that longer term, the aim is to eliminate the dampness problem affecting part of the basement, the cause of which remains unclear. Some of the stonework of the original part of the church is also weathering badly and is likely to have to be replaced within about 10 years.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

8. **Joyce Cullen** had enquired about organising our own training event; however the Archdiocesan office had said we had to use their trainers. Marion Ben Hamou would be available on Wednesday 10 or Thursday 11 May; the PPC would prefer the former date. Training is not mandatory as a condition of clearance, but those applying should be willing to take part. **Fr Douglas** will promote it at the end of Mass a couple of weeks ahead.

Joyce also explained that although applicants for PVG clearance state which roles they wish to perform, hence may be cleared specifically for children or adults, she encourages people to apply for clearance for either group so that they can move flexibly between parish roles as time goes on. Clearance should be renewed within five years; she only has a few to process this year but there will be a large number next year.

Other reports on parish organisations/activities

9. The chairman had requested reports for Fr Douglas's benefit and a further 13 had been received covering 17 groups and activities. The meeting heard as supplementary that:

- Allan Whyte has offered to fill the vacancy for a Family Mass co-ordinator and will speak to Steve Hand about taking on the role. As a teacher he will already have PVG clearance and it is a straightforward exercise to update his clearance.
- **Fr Douglas** will meet with the Liturgy Links Group.
- There is no fixed age band for attending Children's Liturgy, though it is hoped that children will remain with the adult mass once they have made their First Communion.
- Queried whether altar servers could be encouraged to assist on Saturdays.
- Fr Douglas recommended that we look into holding a parish dance as a way of strengthening the sense of belonging to the parish. St Columba's halls would be suitable for providing a separate room for children's activities if desired. It was noted that the Hospitality Team supports events organised by others as opposed to taking the lead in organising.
- Alan Chudziak requested that health and safety become a regular agenda item. There are unguarded hazards in the sanctuary for altar servers carrying candles. An evacuation drill will be due in June.

- Money received by the St Vincent de Paul Society is recorded in the parish accounts.

Consideration of social events

10. Parish Celebration to mark the retirement of Mgr Kerr – Saturday 29 April – the chairman reported that there are still some 53 tickets out of 180 to be sold. However there should be a respectable attendance and we do not expect to make a loss. Easter Sunday may see further sales.

Doors Open Day

11. The official dates this year are Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September. Applications have to be in by 26 May. After discussion it was agreed to see whether enough volunteers are willing to support St Peter's taking part on the Saturday only. **Chairman** to follow up with Liz Brown.

AGM and members' terms

12. The next meeting is also the AGM. It was noted that members officially step down after three years but are eligible for a further term. However as there are already vacancies, we are not insisting on people leaving the PPC! Alan Chudziak said his term was completing but he was willing to continue. It will take a study of past minutes to check how long everyone else has served.

The chairman said his three years in office were also due to complete and invited **members** to consider a successor. Roger Eggins (vice chair) said he would be with family in Australia for three or four months each year.

It was noted also that the PPC does not have an up to date constitution; work on one was deferred because of the Archbishop's parish reorganisation exercise.

Date of next meeting

12. Monday 12 June at 7.30pm

Any other business

13.1. 40 Days for Life campaign – Salvatore Callea said the group had successfully completed its vigil.

13.2. Mass times etc – **Fr Douglas** gave notice of three matters he would like to discuss further, including with the Liturgy Links Group:

- Changing the time of one weekday mass, probably Wednesday, to evening (either early evening or 7.30)
- Instituting a regular evening devotion/Eucharistic adoration, perhaps on a Thursday, with content according to the season (for example the rosary during October)
- Exchanging the places of the main statue at the Lady Altar with another statue of Our Lady, which he feels is more devotional

13.3. Joyce Cullen asked whether parishioners ever contribute flowers for the church, as is the practice in her mother's church. In fact they are provided from church funds and parishioners undertake the arranging. It was suggested that individuals might like to provide flowers as a remembrance.

Closing prayer

14. Fr Douglas led.