

ST. PETER'S PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12 JUNE 2017
(Held in the Parish Room)

Present

Father Douglas (President), Peter Nicholson (Chairman), Liz Brown (Secretary), Roger Eggins, Joyce Cullen, Salvatore Callea, Anne Donnelly, Aga Allen. Also present were a good number of interested parishioners.

Apologies: Alan Chudziak, Ian Stewart, Jacqueline Heron, and Therese Stewart.

Introduction and welcome

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 13 June 2016

2. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes.

3. With thanks to Jacqueline Heron for formatting and publishing, the Annual Report on Parish Activities 2015-16 had been distributed.

Chairman's report.

4. The Chairman reported that the last year of his three-year term had been another busy one. He thanked all Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members for their own efforts and their support – Roger Eggins as Vice Chair, Liz Brown who has recently filled the Secretary vacancy, Alan Chudziak for all the work he puts in to the maintenance of the church building and its facilities, Joyce Cullen as Protection of Vulnerable Groups Coordinator – we couldn't wish for a better qualified person in that role, Ian Stewart and the Liturgy Links Group, and Jacqueline Heron for her work on the parish Annual Report. All members of PPC have contributed fully to the activities of PPC and discussions at PPC meetings.

Dealing first with ongoing parish activities, Volunteering Sunday was repeated following its inaugural success in 2015. This gives the many ministries and special interest groups within the parish the chance to appeal for new members, and once again a number of groups did benefit from this initiative. It was certainly successful in attracting new readers, for example.

Also repeated was Doors Open Day, which attracted 90 visitors despite restricting entrance to Sunday afternoon only, and despite an admin hiccup by the organisers which meant we were omitted from the printed brochure. We have applied to be a venue for 2017, and the Chairman thanked the team responsible for planning for the event, and those who responsible for welcoming and informing visitors.

The Chairman expressed his wish that before the end of his term of office, he would have seen the outcome of the Archbishop's review process on the parish structure of the Archdiocese. Draft final proposals had been expected by Easter 2017, but there has been no news since our cluster parishes reported on our conclusions from working through the prescribed Archdiocesan discussion document. He hopes that no news is good news for our parish communities, but we do not yet know.

The biggest event of the year was the retirement of Mgr Kerr after 28 years as our Parish Priest. This involved much planning and organisation to make Mgr. Kerr's Farewell Mass and the subsequent collection, presentation and farewell social event fitting occasions to mark our appreciation of his service to the Parish. The Chairman recorded his heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to either event. Good feedback received suggests that we achieved our aims. We have taken the time to welcome Fr. Douglas: we are lucky to have him and the Parish Pastoral Council can look forward to a long and fruitful working relationship with him.

From talking to parishioners, there is a sense that many do not have a very clear idea of what the Parish Pastoral Council actually does. Perhaps a fair summing up is that if it happens in the Parish, then the Parish Pastoral Council takes an interest in it, and is ready to provide whatever support it can if that is needed.

That of course, depends on having the members willing and able to serve, and it is hoped that volunteers will always come forward from such a large and able parish community. He thanked all for the support that he had received during his term of office.

Annual Report on Parish Activities 2016-17

5. A rough draft of the Annual Report was available and was circulated. Some submissions are still awaited. The Chairman noted from the report that requests for help came from the Sacristans, Altar Linen, Readers, Offertory Procession, Open Door, Christian Aid, Bereavement Befriending and Holy Dusters. Roger Eggins queried whether the parish made a financial contribution to Freshstart. This has happened under the auspices of the Outreach Group, but more significant is the monthly carload of goods donated by parishioners, taken down to Freshstart.

Council membership

6. Peter Nicholson will step down as Chairman after his three-year term on the Council, and all at the meeting thanked him for his significant contribution. Similarly Roger Eggins: the Chairman thanked him for his contribution especially with the suggestions of Volunteering Sunday and the Welcoming Event for new parishioners.

Annie Royan, Roselyn Macaskill and Josephine Beech-Brandt will join the Council, Josephine as Chairman. There is still a vacancy and it is hoped that we can encourage a Youth member to join.

Dates of meetings in Session 2017-2018

7. Dates for the next session were provisionally agreed as:

2017 Monday 11 September, Monday 6 November, Monday 4 December (only if required)

2018 Monday 12 February, Monday 9 April, Monday 11 June

Any other business

8. Agnes Martony Dolan requested use of the Parish Room for a fundraising event in advance of a Conference on Human Trafficking in November. This was agreed.

Closing prayer

9. Father Douglas led.