

**ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 NOVEMBER 2019**

Present

Fr. Kevin Douglas (President), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chair), Liz Brown (Secretary), Ros Macaskill, Jo Mulvagh, Joyce Cullen, Aga Allan, Francis Katamba (from Item 6), Salvatore Callea (from Item 7)

In attendance

Mary Wastle, John Wastle, Pat Cairns, Ana de Bonrostro, Aoife Palmer (from Item 7)

Apologies

Jim Meehan, Sophie Bennett

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Kevin

Minutes of PPC Meeting 23 September -approved

Matters arising

- Joyce Cullen and Jo Mulvagh will be Representatives of St. Peter's at the next meeting of St. Columba's PPC on Monday 18th November.

Church Heating Project & Property Update (John Wastle)

- **Asbestos removal:** The company which had submitted the lowest tender (£36,450) had now completed a site visit, and their final quote is awaited. For comparison purposes, Blackwood Partnership (BP) have also asked a fresh contractor to quote. BP have recommended that the work is overseen by a specialist consultant – Environmental Essentials (£5,400). Costs quoted may seem very high, but work will take nearly a month and must be carried out to rigorous Health and Safety standards, for the client and also for employee. For example, contained in the quote is provision of a sealed, temporary shower unit for use by employees as they leave the site each day.
- **Replacement heating system:** There has been an exploratory meeting with BP and Lothian Heating (lowest tender £185,000 and current supplier of heating services to St. Peter's). Without commitment on either side Lothian Heating agreed to investigate measures to bring estimated costs closer to parish budget (£100,000). A further meeting is being arranged.
- **Revised timetable:** It would be ideal to have completed the asbestos removal by year end.
- **Alternative system:** As undertaken at last PPC, advice has been sought from BP about Sunamp, an alternative system using solar photovoltaic energy instead of fossil fuel. BP advise of risks associated with new technology (and there is a limit on St. Peter's budget); likely planning constraints; deficit of heat that can be generated versus the heat that is needed; and estimate higher running costs. It was raised that there remains the opportunity to lobby the Archdiocese to ensure that chosen energy providers use renewable sources.
- **Communications:** parishioners have been kept informed from the pulpit and in writing, and updates will continue.
- **Property update:** There was much discussion of the discomfort for parishioners caused by the current breakdown of the heating system. There has been an unexpected delay in sourcing the replacement part needed, and there is close contact with Lothian Heating. There is a continual programme of works to maintain the church property, and a detailed schedule is attached.

Fundraising

Fr. Kevin explained that the membership of Finance Council is now established, and an inaugural meeting is Monday November 18th. Without setting precedent for his eventual successor as Parish Priest, he is keen for budget-setting across the board, and subject to agreed discretionary limits, for Finance Council to have veto on all expenditure. There have also been volunteers for a Fundraising Committee.

Peter Nicholson had suggested a fundraising concert by the Kevock Choir, of which he is a member. Ideally this would be held at St. Peter's, in June 2020. Subject to clarification of the programme, this idea was very well received. **Action: Liz Brown.** Other fundraising ideas to research:

- Consolidating the link with St. Peter's School, benefitting from a PTA event? **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt**
- Race Night. **Action: Josephine Beech-Brandt**
- Quiz Night. **Action: Francis Katamba**

Joint Parish Ceilidh is on Saturday 30 November in St. Columba's Hall. In keeping with the spirit of an establishing a social calendar, this is not a fundraising event. Alternativity Lunch arranged by the Outreach Group is a joint parish event in St. Columba's Hall, and is also on Saturday 30 November.

Parish Safeguarding

New volunteers have been certificated under the PVG scheme, and updates undertaken by existing volunteers in line with Archdiocesan procedures. Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office is to give more guidance about the completion of Parish Safeguarding Plans.

Parish Mission Statement & Strategic Plan

Parish Mission Statement will be shared formally with Ministry Leaders, inviting comments and suggestions for individual plans for each ministry. Parish Mission Statement will be published on the parish website. **Action: Liz Brown.**

Any other business

- **Joint Easter Triduum with St. Columba's:** It was agreed that it was probably easier for all if each parish took turns in hosting, but that St. Peter's might not be the best first venue given the uncertainty about the replacement heating works. It is still Fr. Kevin's wish that there was some joint preparation of the Liturgy. Feedback will be sought from St. Columba's. **Action: Joyce Cullen/Jo Mulvagh**
- **Family Catechesis:** Positive feedback for this, and would there be similar for those of a different demographic? That is certainly the plan.
- **Sanctuary:** With a mind to keeping costs as low as possible, Fr. Kevin shared his vision of some changes that could be made to the Sanctuary to reduce Health and Safety concerns.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3 February

Closing prayer

