

Catholic Parish of Belper and Duffield Parish Pastoral Council | MINUTES

Meeting date: 13/01/2016

Attending council members:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------|---------|
| Fr Michael Kirkham | present | Sally Phillips | present |
| David Barlow (Chair) | present | David Pipe | present |
| Vice Chair | vacant | Jannice Richthof | present |
| Secretary | vacant | Niels Richthof | present |
| Fiona Cartmell | present | Melita Tooher | present |
| Anne Halliday | present | Alan Ward | present |
| John McCabe | apologies | Barbara Wareing | present |

Guests:

Heather Ward, Ros O'Melia

1. Opening prayer (Year of Mercy Prayer)

The meeting was opened with the Year of Mercy Prayer

2. Apologies

John McCabe

3. Welcome to new members

Fr Michael invited the new members to introduce themselves. Fiona Cartmell introduced herself as a member of the environmental group who also supports the 11:00 Sunday Mass with music. Jannice Richthof introduced herself as a youth leader, who also sings at the 11:00 Sunday Mass and is wife to Niels. Melita introduced herself as a new member to the SVP, and as minute taker for today's meeting. Fr Michael also welcomed Heather Ward who was attending today's meeting as a parish member [Ros O'Melia also joined the meeting as a Parish member at 19:30]. Fr Michael confirmed that the minutes of parish meetings will be made available to parishioners, and that parishioners will be invited to offer suggestions/worries to be added to agendas prior to meetings.

4. Election of chair

Fr. Michael clarified that the chair, vice chair and secretary positions are held for one year, but that these positions can be held for longer. Fr. Michael thanked David Barlow for his commitment to role of chair, describing him as a 'pillar of strength'. David expressed his willingness to continue as chair. David Pipe nominated David Barlow as chair, and Fiona Cartmell seconded this. David Barlow was elected as chair for another year.

5. Election of vice chair

Fr. Michael commented on the excellent work that John Wareing did as vice chair. As John has stood down from the parish council, following his term, this position is now vacant. Alan suggested a woman take on this role. The role was clarified: to deputise at meetings, support urgent decision making (e.g. urgent building work), chair meetings if the chair is unavailable. Fiona nominated Barbara Wareing as vice chair, due to her involved roles in the parish, and Jannice seconded this. Barbara was elected as vice chair.

6. Elections of secretary

The role of secretary was clarified: to circulate information, monitor timescales for distribution of agenda's and to take minutes for the meetings, printing off copies for parishioners. Melita offered to take on this role. David B. thanked Melita for this. Melita was elected as secretary.

7. Minutes of last meeting

To be amended as follows:

- The 'No Greater Love' film is not a 15 cert – it is uncertificated.
- p. 2 19:18 – Discussion on pastoral council – Fr. M is responsible to the Bishop for all decisions made by PCC.
- David Pipe expressed his displeasure at the comments at the bottom of p.2 –as he feels that funds raised for a specific group/cause should remain in that group. The environmental group plan to use excess funds raised for the Oak Tree planting to be used to fund the wildflower project he mentioned when he spoke to the congregation about the initial fund raise. Niels explained that there needs to be an upfront agreement about what will be done with any excess funds raised. All agreed that they do not want to stifle fund raising activities. Discussion was ended to preserve the agenda.
- P.10 regarding the church decoration rota – Patricia Lloyd has this 'in hand' and has found five volunteers to support with flower decoration.

8. Finance

As per report presented at meeting on 04.11.15.

9. Rev Keith Bunyan is willing to assist at mass as deacon and preach once a month – discussion of any issues arising with a view to approval

Keith's presence at Duffield has improved communion. Jannice asked about cost to the parish. Fr. Michael confirmed that Keith only asks for a very small fuel contribution (£5 for 6 visits for travelling from Ashbourne). When we are more solvent Fr. Michael suggested we offer the standard 45p per mile. Barbara commented that Keith is interesting, and that he projects his voice well. Fr. Michael explained that Keith will not be taking masses, but that he has offered to attend weddings etc. August – September.

The meeting welcomed Ros O'Melia.

10. Progress of arrangements for Fr Michael's sabbatical

Canon Anthony Dolan, Monsignor Dazeley, Fr, Pateman, who have recently retired, will cover September and October. Fr. Chris Cann will also cover some weekends. The expenses for this cover are being divided three ways, by Fr. Michael, the parish and the diocese. Barbara asked if the costs have been deducted from this year's budget. Neils confirmed that the costs will be from the financial year April 2016 – April 2017. Barbara also asked if there was any need for accommodation. Fr. Michael explained that in August only Fr. Horrax and (possibly) any Rosminians will require accommodation, as most likely everyone else will travel back home.

Fr. Michael distributed a 'Statement on Parish leadership and the Pastoral Council' which outlined three different models, ranging from one end of the scale, where the council exists in a purely consultative role, to one where the council act as a fully proactive body. Fr. Michael asked the council to read the statement which will be discussed at the March meeting.

11. Update on house repairs

John Wareing provided a report which was presented by David Barlow

1. All the plaster has been removed from the walls to be treated.
2. The central heating radiators and brackets have been taken down – I would suggest we replace the existing radiators with more modern ones which are much more efficient.
3. The chimney breast has been taken down and rebuilt with an opening for a vent- when the builder started to remove the old brickwork from the chimney it was found to be approx. 4 feet deep in rubbish and dust!
4. On Thursday 14th Jan Preserva are coming to start treating the wall (cost £914 incl. VAT). Then the room has to be plastered, we are still awaiting quotes for this.

GARDENING

1. The sit-on mower at Duffield will have to be serviced at the end of February, I will arrange this when I'm back from holiday, also it has been suggested a 'mulcher' is acquired to save the necessity of picking up the grass. This would only be used after the 'first cut' when the grass is shorter.
2. Both hand mowers have been serviced and are ready for the grass cutting season. (Both these mowers are at Belper at the moment).
3. Niels kindly volunteered to mow at Belper – but we need some volunteers to keep the flower beds in order.
4. JJ & I will continue to see to the grass at Duffield."

Fiona asked for clarification on what the parish house is used for. David explained that the house is used for parish meetings, and that the office is based upstairs.

Fr. Michael has sought financial assistance from the diocese to support the ongoing costs of the extensive and essential house repairs, and has received a promising response from Edward Poyser.

Architect Liz Walker from Duffield provides advice free of charge and some workmen do not charge VAT, which has helped to keep costs as low as possible.

Fr. Michael expressed some concern regarding run-off water down the side of the lean to. Barbara suggested digging out an area and filling it with gravel, to support better drainage. David B. will discuss with John and Barbara Wareing.

12. Brainstorm ideas on Parish retreat day/weekend (building on suggestions arising from the PPC Review Day)

Heather spoke to the meeting about her experience leading and organising parish retreats. Heather advised the meeting to think carefully about what the event is called, as 'retreat' might be off putting to some.

Objectives of the event are to:

1. Enable the Parish to come together, enabling parishioners to get to know one another.
2. Pray together beyond Mass.

Heather explained that the most successful way she had found to manage input, was through 'themed games'. For example the theme could be 'mercy' and you could have a series of cards such as 'I find it hard to believe that...' You could imagine that you're devising a front page for a parish newspaper, and are provided with a list of themes, and as a group decide on a title and message. You think about the priorities for the newspaper, and the approach. Games such as this enable structured reflection, enabling attendees to share doubt and faith.

Heather suggested sessions to work, then reflect so that the event will be both corporate and individual – some free time after lunch to socialise was also suggested.

Heather suggested separate activities for the younger people and children, ensuring that the child leaders are also offered 'time out' to participate in the sessions. What has worked well before is the children being given the opportunity to show what they have done e.g. through drama, collage.

David P. asked if it would be possible to deliver such an event in one day. Heather said that you would struggle. David suggested that a residential event would exclude some people (time, cost).

The meeting discussed the theme of 'mercy' in this year of mercy. Fr. Michael agreed that event was a good idea, if the PPC agreed, as it would enable different parish groups and masses to

come together. The event will require an organising committee – it was estimated it could take about 6 months to organise. Ideas:

- A 'whole parish' mass to bring together worshippers from Duffield, and Belper vigil and Sunday morning masses
- A shared table on the Saturday
- A BBQ on the Saturday
- Presentations by the different parish groups

The meeting agreed that a varied programme over a weekend, held locally in July, would be good. Discussion about possible locations: Briars, St. Elizabeth's school. The Briars may exclude some people without independent transport. Barbara pointed out that the school stage will be occupied in July for the end of year production, and that any requests need to be put to the governing and planning group at the school. Jannice explained that marketing would be important and Anne Halliday suggested a collaborative approach. What do the Parish want? Ask the Parish – are you interested? Would you like to be involved?

Fr. Michael suggested an open meeting a fortnight today 27.01.16 at 19:00 to help organise, and to make suggestions of who to invite to 'come on board'. Details of open meeting to go onto parish website and in the newsletter.

Niels asked where the idea for the parish weekend came from. Heather explained it came from the open parish meeting on 01.09.15 which was facilitated by Rachel Purchase.

Barbara confirmed that the next governors meeting at St. Elizabeth's will be held on 22.03.16. Barbara agreed to put a suggestion of a parish weekend being held at the school in the second weekend of July (9/10th). David pointed out that this is same weekend as the Padley pilgrimage. The initial plan is for the weekend programme of events to begin on the Friday evening and end on the Sunday afternoon. Heather suggested publishing a 'programme of events' so that parishioners can choose which sessions they want to attend. Ros suggested possibly calling the event 'A Coming Together Weekend'.

13. Discussion of how to progress issues concerning Duffield boundaries and involve the congregation there - suggestion that next meeting is held at Duffield (9th March) at 7.30pm

[Following the meeting it was pointed out that the Duffield Singers will be using St Margaret's on this date – so next meeting will be held at Our Lady's).

David Barlow introduced the history of the boundary issues at St. Margaret's. There were leylandi hedges surrounding the whole boundary, but at the back near the scout hut people were gathering, and there was an issue with arson affecting the garage. The site has now been opened up in this area. The leylandi hedges at the back were removed, and bird's mouth posts

now mark this area of the boundary. Since these measures, the people have no longer been gathering, and there have been no further vandalism issues.

The remaining three sides to the boundary are marked by leylandi hedges. These require professional trimming which costs around £1,500 a year. A decision needs to be made on the future of the boundary. There was a meeting held in Duffield to get a consensus on whether people would prefer to keep the leylandi hedges, and incur the annual trimming costs, or replace the hedges with birds mouth posts and fencing, which would require no treatment for the next 20 years. Unfortunately this meeting was not well attended, perhaps because it was not advertised enough. Though the outcome was decisively in favour of removal of the hedges, some promptly changed their minds once others got to hear about it and this, together with that meeting's low turnout, made further consultation seem the wiser option.

It was agreed that parishioners should be well informed regarding the options (e.g the cost to remove the hedges has been quoted at £1,300) and the opinions of both parishioners and neighbouring households should be sought.

To support this Anne Halliday will visit the neighbouring houses and gather opinion.

David B. will prepare a list of options. Melita suggested including an option of a mixed country hedge that would not require professional trimming, and could also act as a good environment for welcoming wildlife into the area.

Fr. Michael, Anne and David will meet to decide how to best gather parishioner's views.

The next parish meeting will be held at St. Margaret's (9th March) and a decision will be made by the PCC, taking into account the views gathered.

14. Finance Committee meeting - date and venue to be announced

There will be a joint meeting to discuss the budget on 26.02.16 at 18:00 St. Benedict's Room, Our Lady's.

15. Closing prayers

Fr. Michael closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next PCC meeting to be held on 09.03.16

At St. Benedict's Room, Our Lady's

19:00 – 20:30