

Catholic Parish of Belper and Duffield Parish Pastoral Council | MINUTES

Meeting date: 14/09/2016

Attending council members:

Fr Michael Kirkham	apologies	Sally Phillips	present
David Barlow (Chair)	present	David Pipe	apologies
Barbara Waring (Vice Chair)	present	Jannice Richthof	present
Melita Tooher (Secretary)	present	Niels Richthof	present
Fiona Cartmell	apologies	Alan Ward	apologies
Anne Halliday	present	Ros O'Melia	parishioner
John McCabe	present		

1. Opening prayer

The meeting was opened with the Jubilee Year of Mercy Prayer

2. Apologies

Fr Michael, Alan Ward, Fiona Cartmell, David Pipe.

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

Point 8. Melita suggested some additions to give a clearer picture of the discussion held before the vote on the Sion Mission was taken, following comments from a PPC member and parishioner. Following these amendments, all agree minutes.

- No coordinator was arranged for word and communion services as discussed at previous meeting
- Saturday evening meals have been arranged for covering clergy, with the exception of 22/10/16 and 29/10/16. Niels and Jannice came forward to offer Fr Pateman a meal on the 22nd and Anne will check if she is able to offer Fr Pateman's evening meal on the 29th
- Ros expressed appreciation to the PPC for their service, and read a drafted response to the booking of the Sion Mission [copy attached]
David thanked Ros for her contribution and acknowledged the valid points made. Niels clarified the role of the PPC, and explained that although Fr Michael works collaboratively with the PPC, Fr Michael is able to disregard the PPC advice if he so chooses. Ros explained that she felt shocked about the booking, and that the cheque to secure the booking had been sent.

Niels went on to explain that the decision had not been rushed, but that one of the learning points from previous missions had been that the timing of the mission affected the success, and to guarantee the most beneficial time for our parish mission, the PPC took the decision to book the agreed best time. Niels questioned that if the PPC were not able to discuss issues and make decisions, what was the point of the PPC – and suggested that if all decisions are to be widely circulated for discussion that the characteristics of the PPC should be amended. Niels also highlighted that parishioners are free to decide whether to attend mission services and activities or not.

Ros suggested that it would have been better to raise the suggestion of a Sion Mission, and then make the decision at the following PCC meeting. Niels explained that this would have meant postponing the decision for 3 months, in which time the preferred booking slot may have been taken.

David confirmed that all points had been taken on board, but that the decision made to hold the Sion Mission would stand and the booking would not be cancelled.

Ros suggested that, considering the amount of money agreed to be spent on the Sion Mission, the decision should have been widely consulted. Anne pointed out that the PPC often make un-consulted decisions on building and maintenance work, where the sums of money are much higher than the cost of the Mission. Anne also explained that it is often more difficult to take leadership when making spiritual based decisions, and suggested resolution through prayer and love. Ros confirmed that she has been praying the issue.

Jannice commented that mission for 2017 has not been planned, and suggested that the sisters could be invited to return next year. Ros made it clear that she would prefer that the mission for 2018 not be delivered by the Sion Community. [Ros thanked the meeting and left]

4. Dissemination of the minutes

Following discussion agreement that 'provisional minutes' will be distributed to PPC members for comment within two weeks of PPC meetings, and that members will have a week to comment before 'draft minutes' are distributed with a copy on the website and a copy on the notice boards at each church.

Sally asked who was responsible for updating the bulletin and the parish website as there has been a mismatch between the two. Barbara questioned why the Leisure Group and Mothers Prayers did not appear as 'upcoming events'.

Niels confirmed that the website contents are maintained by the parish office, and that during the months of July and August he had stepped in temporarily to manage this, although was out of the UK for periods and this resulted in breaks of management of the tasks. Training and website access issues have now been

resolved and Sherri is currently updating the website contents, although Niels will continue to be responsible for uploading the parish minutes.

Barbara provided details of the upcoming Leisure Group activities and confirmed that Mother's Prayers are held on the first Wednesday of each month. David will ensure that office have this information and receive the request to include on the website.

5. St Margaret's grounds:

- The community orchard proposal following the building and sites committee meeting held on 01/09/16

David began by confirming that the buildings and land within the Parish are owned by the Diocese. Kathy Gorman has emailed David with feedback from the building and sites committee meeting. The diocese still have concerns regarding access issues to the site, and solicitors will be consulted to check whether the proposal breaches the covenant through which the land was donated. Further discussion on the issue will be suspended until the building and sites committee give agreement.

- Plans for planting bushes at St Margaret's

David explained that the area is still being treated with a particular problem with ground ivy and nettles. It may be some time before we can consider what if any bushes or trees we might like to plant, given that we have a lack of young volunteers and need to manage the site.

Sally raised the idea of adding signage or a cross to the front of the church building at St Margaret's to make it more easily recognisable as a church. All agreed that this is a good idea and to seek ideas from the parish for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Building Maintenance:

- Update from Niels regarding finances for the Parish house kitchen / woodworm in church

The September finance committee meeting was postponed. Niels has forwarded the quotes that were previously obtained by David to the finance committee adding his recommendation to go ahead with all works as soon as possible. Paul Medcalf initially agreed with that but Fr Michael expressed some concern about

taking the kitchen out of action whilst the parish house is being used by visiting priests, so no work is to go ahead in the parish house at present.

- **Parish House Bathroom**

Barbara described the parish house bathroom as in a 'sorry state'. David will do some repairs to make the bathroom more presentable.

- **Gas and Electric**

It is quite likely that the gas and electrical systems have never been serviced.

David confirmed that both boilers at Our Lady's, in the parish house and the main church, have now been serviced.

The chimneys in the parish house are not lined, and David has had quotes of £1,200 to line these (£2,000 including scaffolding).

Instead of servicing the gas fires and lining the chimneys in the parish house it should be carefully considered whether the gas fires should be decommissioned as they may be surplus to requirements now that the new radiators are fitted and working well.

There have been issues with the electricity power with a hand dryer at St Margaret's and kitchen at our Lady's, plus the need for new fuse boxes to meet current regulations. This work is being carried out in early October.

7. **Audio, visual and sound equipment – ensuring ease of use**

During John Vale Juniors funeral the microphone was not turned on, which meant those gathered in the St Benedict room could not hear the service. Sally suggested instructions on how to use the equipment be written and available. Niels and Jannice explained that the equipment is very expensive, and that it would not be a good idea to put up 'how to' instructions on the wall. Agreement that those responsible for setting up for events will be invited to a training session on how to use the equipment.

8. **Journeys – last issue was Advent 2015**

Sally asked if the PPC still thought that there was a need for the Parish magazine 'Journeys'. Should it continue, as paper or online only? Niels commented that it would be sad if we stopped producing it. Agreement to discuss at the next meeting. Sally was clear that she would not want to take on the role of editor again.

9. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting confirmed as 09/11/16. Agreement to arrange 2017 dates at next meeting, and David will check to see who is due to either renew their PPC membership or step down.

AOB

Melita offered up the role of secretary to coincide with membership renewal, if there are any members that would like to take on the role, making it clear that if not she is happy to continue.

Sally asked Anne why St Margaret's had not been used as a venue for the Duffield Arts Festival, and Anne explained that there were more suitable venues offered, as St Margaret's was not centrally located, could not be used on Sunday, art work could not be pinned to the walls and there was no outside sculpture to be displayed.

Jannice would like to begin a pre-youth group for 7-11 year olds, to meet once a month. Jannice will suggest this to Fr Michael when he returns from Sabbatical.

10. Closing prayer

Jannice led the meeting in a closing prayer.

Next meeting to be held on

Wednesday 9th November, 7pm until 8:30pm

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