

Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Monday 22nd April 2024

Minutes

Present: Fr. Simon, Tricia Carter (Chair), Frank McNally (Vice Chair), Kerry Poole (Secretary), Karen Lampitt.

Apologies: Charles de Rohan, Joanna Helme, Sarah Nichols.

1. Fr. Simon opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting had been read and were agreed.

Fr. Simon has been in contact with the original signwriters of the noticeboard outside St. Thomas' Church to arrange for corrections to be made regarding times of Mass. The noticeboard at Kington also needs the Sunday Mass time at Weobley to be amended.

Joanna has been researching a replacement noticeboard for the glass-fronted one on the outside sacristy wall. Staples offered several types and seem to have the most competitive prices. A few options were tabled and Fr. Simon favoured the largest board retailing at £178.99., which is both waterproof and lockable. However, Joanna has registered the Parish with an organisation called Church Market Place which works with parishes and schools in a cost saving purchasing initiative that leverages the purchasing power of the Church. Once our registration is accepted she will see what they have to offer. **JH to update at the next meeting.**

3. **Parish Priest's report**

A report covering activities between February and April 2024 is attached to these minutes.

4. **Update on refurbishment of St. Thomas', Weobley (FM)**

Frank told the meeting that the HCC had refused our application. Following consultation with the PAC, and amendments made to the submission in accordance with their recommendations, the application has been resubmitted, and acknowledged, with a decision due in June, which is expected to be favourable.

5. **Finance Committee report (TC for JH)**

In Joanna's absence, Tricia drew our attention to several matters arising in the Minutes of the last Finance Committee Meeting.

A fire inspection of the property had taken place but no certificate received. **TC will speak to Andy Palfreman to make sure the bill for the inspection has been paid and check that he is still chasing for the Certificate.**

The issue of the floor of St. Bede's at Kington had been discussed again, following quotes being obtained for carpeting. This was for the entire floor surface of the church. Our meeting discussed the expense and effectiveness of such a resolution to the problem, and it was agreed that, in order find out once and for all if the damaged flooring could be repaired, a professional survey should be carried out. It was felt that, in the meantime, the floor around the altar could be carpeted and vinyl flooring put down in the toilet/utility area. The main body of the Church should not be carpeted at this time. TC asked what, if any, were the terms of reference regarding the thresholds of expenditure by the Finance Committee before such expenditure needs to be referred to the PAC for approval? **She had discussed this with Joanna who had agreed to find out.**

6. Election of new members to the PAC

Two members of the PAC have now completed their second term of office, Joanna Helme and Karen Lampitt. Elections would therefore be held during May and the new members (one representing Weobley, the other representing Kington), introduced at the next AGM. It was proposed that Joanna should be co-opted back onto the PAC in her role as chair of the Parish Finance Committee. All members of the PAC agreed. **TC will make preparations for the elections in terms of nomination slips being available in both Churches during May. Fr. Simon to put a notice in the newsletter.**

7. Safeguarding

Tricia (on Joanna's behalf) informed the meeting that Joanna (as the Parish Safeguarding Representative) undertook some online training provided by Cardiff Archdiocese and had been awarded a certificate for it. She has asked whether volunteers and Clergy were going to be expected to do this training as well, but has not yet received an answer.

8. A.O.B.

(i) Frank McNally informed the meeting that the PAT testing has been carried out and completed.

(ii) Kerry asked, as had Joanna via Tricia, about the cost, format, content of talks and general purpose of the Parish Retreat day. Fr. Simon explained that the cost of £38 is split - £33 for the cost of the house, and £5 to cover tea/coffee/food. The format would be as per the newsletter announcement. The content of talks had not been discussed with Fr. Alex, but given the concern/interest at the meeting, Fr. Simon hoped to see Fr. Alex next weekend and discuss with him. The general purpose is that of a community day for the Parish, focussing on the spiritual element of our Faith. It was suggested that more information needs to be made available to inform parishioners of exactly what the Retreat is about. **Fr. Simon will provide this information.**

(iii) Tricia informed the meeting that Stella Hurdidge was standing down as a Eucharistic Minister for the time being. This means there are now only four Ministers available at Weobley and at least two further Ministers would be ideal, preferably sooner rather than later, so that they could be trained and then commissioned at the Corpus Christi Mass in June. **Fr. Simon agreed to approach parishioners who he felt would be suitable and willing to serve in this Ministry.**

Date of the next meeting: Parish AGM, Monday 10th June, 7pm in the Parish Rooms.