

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council 24th January 2023

Attending

Martyn, Ann, Ian, Bill, Kathy, Sylvia, Brian, Arthur, Sandra, Sue, Father Jim, Father Alex, Eddie, Jackie, Sharon, Monica, Catherine and Susan.

The meeting was presided by Chair (Ann). Father Alex opened the meeting with prayers.

Apologies

Were tendered by Angela.

Minutes of the previous *PPC meeting* were approved by Catherine and Sandra and the Minutes of the *PPC extraordinary meeting* were approved by Bill and Sandra.

Amendments and follow up from previous meetings.

These were read out by members to include.

- Update on the Tasks of the Parish.
- Heating update
- Sue gave a report on Increasing numbers to the Parish through open doors.
- Report of Cosy Café included funding, advertising, banners and other ways to promote.
- Finance and Grants.

Finance report

Was read out by Ian, that included.

- Finance commitments
- Collecting
- Gift Aid
- Admin. Procedure
- Property Costs
- Consumable Costs

Ian also reported bank balances from the previous 3 years. Current Balance of funds is approximately £120,000.



Finance discussion was opened up to the committee and suggestions to raise money were put forward to include.

- 100 Club.
- Mass announcement to increase donations.
- Coffee mornings.

Briefly a leaflet drop was discussed, however Father Jim suggested this would be better after we have fulfilled *Divine Renovation*.

Sign up Sunday and Divine Renovation

Father Jim guided the group through the process of Divine Renovation that includes.

- Studying the writings
- Passing on faith
- Encouraging others
- Involvement
- Faith sharing
- Educating
- Hard work

Father Jim went on to explain that Tony Lappin will attend our Mass on February 19th to address a talk. Then we are invited to attend an event at Saints Leonard and Fergus to hear about the ALPHA course.

Social Media

Martyn suggested a Parish Facebook page.

He explained social media could be made to promote local interest. Some members were unsure. However, Martyn explained that it's a modern way of communicating a Faith message and many churches have one, he was asked to create one and he asked others to share the page as widely as they can.

Fabric Report

Martyn ran through the continuing issues of repairs and maintenance, to include.

- Ian monitoring the temperature and humidity in the Church building and house.
- Heating replacement boiler has been approved and an up to date quote is to be given by the previous preferred bidder.
- Temporary heating installed since December 18th has been a success and is allowing continued use of the Church building for having Mass on a Sunday.
- Flooring imperfection has been identified by the Fabric committee as bad workmanship by the damp inspectors who relayed the floor badly.



- Fabric team will assess the damage done to the church house by the recent water damage.

AOCB

Pilgrimage

Angela through Martyn's proxy has suggested a pilgrimage to Iona as a way to renew the Parish.

Angela reported by proxy that we should open it up to all three Parishes. A date of June 9th 2024 was agreed provisionally.

Martyn and Angela have the experience and can organise, however additional help is needed from the following temporary positions in the council.

- Bookkeeper
- Money collector
- Fixer

Ideas

1. Secular sharing of St Columba's estate.

Martyn briefly presented an out the box idea to create a *faith\secular* arrangement to generate money for the Parish and Diocese. He introduced an engineering drawing and business plan. However, it was not a proposal agreed to pursue further by council. Martyn submitted the documents on approval to the Diocese Fabric Committee.

2. Parish Prayer

Father Alex thought the old Parish Prayer should be brought in during the Mass. Father Jim objected to it during the Mass, but saw no reason to say it after the Mass. Others agreed they could say it silently during the Mass. Brian suggested spending 5 minutes at the end of Mass to recite the prayer.

Footnotes Issues of temperature fluctuation in the hall refrigerator was raised and Father Jim was asked if money can be released to buy a new one.

Date of Next Meeting

Sue suggested the next meeting be brought forward since there is a time limit on Parish survival.

March the 14th 2023 was the agreed date

With no other business the meeting closed with prayers said by Father Alex.



