

Manor Park Parish of St Stephens and St Nicholas Catholic Church

Minutes of the Meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council

4 November 2014

Present:

James Jukwey (2013) (Chair)	Tina Amuzie (2013) (Vice Chair)	Lesley Thomas (2013) (Secretary/minute-taker)
Susan Greaves (2013)	Josephine Ndyababo (2014)	Bernard Thiana (2014)
Sally Edozie (2014)	Sr Dorothy (ex officio)	Sr Breda (ex officio)
Sr. Kathleen (ex officio)		

A register sheet was circulated and those present signed next to their name.

Absent: Hyacinth Anni (2013); Peter Duru (2013); Vida Wills (2013); Chris Anugo (2013); Anthony Fernando (2014); Chipu Mautsi (2013) ; Hazel Ringrow (2014);

1. Welcome to all: James opened the meeting promptly at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

2. Reflection: Sr. Breda read a passage from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians about the first communities. This reminded of the need to use prayer in the work with the parish because life is transfigured with God's presence.

3. Rounds: Each person was asked to introduce themselves and to name what they considered to be the next steps for the PPC. These ranged from Christian courtesy; giving all a sense of belonging; being aware of the needs of the Parish; doing 1:1s with members of the PPC and in the community; to know people and be able to welcome them; to do the things on the list formulated at the special meeting in September from January 2015; talk to people; more interaction with the congregation; encouraging people to contribute and to become involved in parish activities.

3. Apologies for absence: Fr Sean Connolly (president, ex officio); Sr Cardus OMI; David Prowse

4. Acceptance of minutes of the previous meetings (16 September and the Special Meeting on 29 September): these were accepted without amendments.

5. Matters arising: Thanks were noted to Sr Kathleen for taking the minutes at the last meeting in the secretary's absence.

James planned to visit St Anthony's to assess their sound system which seemed to be fit for purpose and he hoped to do this before the next meeting.

6. Develop key areas or objectives of the PPC: copies of the draft list drawn up at the previous meeting were distributed and discussed.

- a) Politeness and consideration of others in the Church: noisy children - to be kept as quiet as possible so as not to unnecessarily disturb others; it is key to have children to come to Mass as a base for their Catholic upbringing and faith. It was agreed that a better sound system would alleviate the problem to some extent as those in different areas of the Church would be able to hear despite the surrounding noises.
- b) It was suggested that one area at a time was reviewed for a fixed time period e.g a week or a month
- c) Ushers - this was raised again - to be used to remind parishioners when they arrived at Mass to switch off their mobiles; to escort parishioners to seats, after the readings, in order to cause less disturbance to others and to avoid the build up of people standing at the back of the Church.
- d) Church environment
- e) Parking area: to use a pole with chains and traffic cones to block inconsiderate drivers parking in the exit and entrance areas. To take advice and guidance from the Head Teacher of St Winifredes School and Fr. Sean.
- f) It was suggested that a survey be done to ask five questions about some of these topics but it would need an owner/project manager for it to be possible.
- g) One to ones (1:1s): A discussion on the benefits or inhibitors to taking these forward:
 - i) It was a good way to learn people's names and their backgrounds
 - ii) The 1:1 meetings can be time-consuming
 - iii) It was a way of bonding with others
 - iv) Difficult to find a neutral and mutually suitable place to have this meeting
 - v) Can't always get the full picture of the person in one session and therefore, often several sessions were need in order to have more indepth discussions.
 - vi) Each 1:1 meeting is a journey with the other person
 - vii) A suggestion to have a monthly tea with people in the Community Room - after each Mass - in order to bring the community together. The first of these to be the First Sunday of Advent (30 November).
 - viii) All PPC members were asked to have a 1:1 with other PPC members before the next meeting
 - ix) When trust is built up with a person, it was noted that they often will open up and be more forthcoming with personal information.
 - x) To have a brief community dialogues during the time of the Mass when the homily is given (as Fr Sean has done previously) which it was agreed had been helpful as a way to meet others .
 - xi) The 1:1's would give people a sense of belonging

7. Finance Report: Josephine gave an update: the Parish finances are still overdrawn and action needs to be taken. She will review various areas of expenditure to assess where possible areas of savings could be made and to report back at the next Finance meeting on 1 December and subsequently to the next PPC meeting.

A brief discussion about the cost of gift aid envelopes as opposed to direct debits took place again.

8. AOB: None

9. Dates of future meetings: These have not yet been set and it was agreed to wait for Fr Sean's return from sick leave to advise the best dates that suited his diary for the coming year.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm