

Manor Park Parish of St Stephens and St Nicholas Catholic Church

Minutes of the Meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council

13 January 2015

Present:

James Jukwey (2013) (Chair)	Tina Amuzie (2013) (Vice Chair)	Lesley Thomas (2013) (Secretary/minute-taker)
Peter Duru (2013)	Josephine Ndyababo (2014)	Bernard Thiana (2014)
Sally Edozie (2014)	Sr Dorothy (ex officio)	Sr Breda (ex officio)
Sr. Kathleen (ex officio)	Chipo Mautsi (2013)	Fr Sean Connolly

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

Absent: Anthony Fernando (2014); Hazel Ringrow (2014); Hyacinth Anni; Vida Wills;

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

Rounds: James asked each person to tell of any unusual resolutions made at this time of the year. These were varied and gave an insight into something important in each person's way of living - a further step in getting to know each other.

2. Reflection: Fr Sean read from the Christmas Greetings letter from Pope Francis to the Curia substituting the words "the curia" for "Parish Council" which gave this text a different and appropriate meaning. Copies were distributed for later reading. Pope Francis said to think of the (Curia) PPC as a small model of the Church that is, a body that seeks, seriously and on a daily basis to be more alive, healthier and more harmonious and more united in itself and with Christ. He then went onto describe a number of "sicknesses".

3. Apologies for absence: Susan Greaves (2013); David Prowse (2014) Chris Anugo (2013);

4. Acceptance of minutes of the previous meetings (16 September and 4 November 2014): these were accepted without amendments.

5. Matters arising: The teas after Mass on the First Sunday of Advent had been well attended but the bulk of the work had fallen on Sr Breda through misinterpretation of the note sent out - she had only offered to supply the refreshments, not to take on the whole task of serving, etc.

6. Finance briefing: Copies of three Financial statements were distributed: Income statement, Expenditure statement and Financial Report. These highlighted that the expenditure exceeds the income by a similar amount each month (2k) which has a rolling negative effect on the annual total. Discussion followed on areas where costs could be saved.

It was suggested there be an "owner" for each area of the Church where money could be saved e.g. metre reading; owning the boiler for the heating system – regulation and control of the time switch; repository costs/income; the ordering and costs of candles, etc. The Finance Committee to review areas for savings or a new different and more cost-effective way to handle.

David Prowse has been renominated onto the PPC for another term of office (he had continued to be a member of the Finance Committee).

7. Parish Building Project: Fr Sean put the following proposals to the Parish Council for consideration and development at this meeting and future meetings:

He would like to "test out" i.e. give the Parish the opportunity to give their views on the proposal of Chapter One. However, it may take six months before any changes can be made at St Nicholas and in the meantime, Fr Sean would like to allow the Coptic Orthodox Church, who have recently approached him again, to use the St Nicholas Church building for which they will pay rent - at least this will provide a welcome source of income to the Parish funds. Fr Sean to meet them and go forward with this action.

The next proposal for consideration was to use the building of St Stephens as a hall (when not being used for catechal purposes) rather than to have a hall in the planned new development. Could this be used for 100/200/300 people and rented out? On the agenda for the next meeting to give time to discuss "why the Parish needs a hall" as this may show that a hall may not be adequately used and therefore, would not need to be included in future development plans.

Another proposal was whether part of the Priest's house could be converted to a flat and rented out.

It was important that the PPC was clear what was wanted and needed in the best interests of the Parish. The school project did not figure in these deliberations.

8. Core Function focus groups: Fr Sean described what these were pointing out that 14 months ago the Parish was using two Churches but this had now been brought into one. He asked that the PPC break into groups and each person to join a group of their own choosing dealing with the subject that they would prefer to discuss.

a) **Liturgical worship - life of the Church** (Tina, Josephine)

- i) Sunday Eucharist: the shop window
- ii) Morning prayer/Adoration/Eucharistic Services/Other Worship
- iii) Celebration of the sacraments
- iv) Liturgical roles
- v) Music and choir - need for new organ
- vi) Fabric and look of the Church

b) **Administration** (Peter, Fr Sean, Lesley)

- i) Maintenance/Health & Safety/Safeguarding
- ii) Finance/Gift Aid
- iii) Secretariat : phone/post/email/website/newsletter
- iv) Resources
- v) Future use of buildings

c) **Ongoing faith development / catechesis / congregational development/evangelisation** (Sally, Sr Kathleen, Sr Breda)

- i) Small groups
- ii) One to ones
- iii) Children / youth (200 children in parish)
- iv) Catechesis / Sacramental programmes
- v) The elderly (care and sick visiting)

d) Social justice (Bernard, James, Sr Dorothy)

- i) St Vincent de Paul Society
- ii) TELCO / London Citizens
- iii) CTC (Formally known as Contextual Theology Centre, Now known as the Centre for Theology and Community)
- iv) CAFOD (raising money; helping the church in Cameroon ("twinning")

The key questions to address in the groups were:

1. What do we do well?
2. What are the key roles? Who are the key people?
3. What is the key concern we can realistically tackle?

The input from the various areas to be made available and to consolidated.

Next steps:

1. To make a list of all the areas of ownership and roles within the Parish
2. To put this up at the back of the Church and ask people to add their names to areas where they would like to help

It was decided that there should be an extraordinary PPC meeting on Monday 16 February to discuss the roles and areas for people in the parish to become involved in.

9. One to ones: Fr Sean outlined the importance of having one to ones with each other on the PPC to get to know each other and become an effective "team" and then to branch out to one on ones with others in the Parish. He was of the opinion that after the discussion minuted at the previous meeting, he needed to convince the PPC of the importance of these. He stated that those 1:1s which he had partaken had been beneficial, fruitful and rewarding and encouraged members to have a positive approach to conducting these meetings. He asked that each member set up two one on ones at this meeting with time, date, place arranged.

10. AOB. (a) The lighting had been effectively improved by Anthony Fernando under his own cognisance.

(b) St Vincent de Paul Society – their Easter celebrations will involved other groups in the Parish.

11. Dates of future meetings: 17 March; 19 May; 7 July; (social) 15 September (planning for Annual Parish Meeting); 17 October - Annual Parish Meeting; 17 November (first meeting with new PPC members).

Special extra meeting: 16 February to discuss the roles in the Core Function Groups.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm