

MINUTES of the 261st meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.15pm in the Parish Centre.

PRESENT: Mrs Josephine Lea, in the Chair, Mrs Maureen Favager, Ms Debbie Kerry, Ms Rosemary Muntus, Mrs Mary Robinson, Mr Allan Scott, Mrs Pat Smith and Mr James Spencer.

APOLOGIES: Father Simon Leworthy, Mrs Carole Kelly, Mr Paul McIntee, Mrs Gillian Millyard

ALSO PRESENT: Frank Lea, Clerk to the Council

23/22 OPENING PRAYER: The Chairman formally opened the meeting with a prayer.

24/22 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: Jo welcomed everybody to the meeting and reported that Mr Paul McIntee has been appointed to the Council by Father Simon. He will report on Woolpit matters, but was unable to attend this meeting due to family commitments.

25/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: It was agreed that the MINUTES of the 260th meeting of the PPC, held on 15th February 2022 constituted a true record. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

26/22 MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

27/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA: Jo Lea said she wished to raise one item at the end of the meeting.

28/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2022 PARISH AGM

- REFURBISHMENT OF CHURCH BELLS: Father Simon is leading on this matter and will keep the PPC and the parish informed of progress.
- CHURCH SEATING: The mix of chairs and pews is under review
- CHURCH VENTILATION: The matter of the window that is "painted up" is being dealt with.
- SATURDAY MASS: The AGM had expressed some disappointment that the 10am Saturday Mass had been discontinued.

29/22 REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Chairman reported on the Finance Committee meeting that had taken place on 29th March:

- PREZZO WALL: In March the rebuilding of the wall was just starting on the wall and the work is now nearing completion.
- BANKING ARRANGEMENTS: With the closure of the Stowmarket branch of HSBC in August, arrangements are in hand to deposit cash and cheques into the HSBC account through the Post Office.
- FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT: This has now been carried out and a number of recommendations have been made – the review, organised by the diocese, amounted to 74 pages! It is estimated that the cost of the measures to satisfy church property safety will amount to not more than £2,000. Simon Millyard is taking the lead in implementing necessary action.
- DATE OF NEXT FINANCE MEETING: This is to take place on Tuesday 16th August 2022

30/22 DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF LAITY: The next meeting will take place on Saturday 14th May 2022. This is to take place at the cathedral in Norwich and will be a joint meeting with the team who conducted the Synodal Pathway project.

31/22 DEANERY COUNCIL OF LAITY: The last meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 23rd March 2022, on ZOOM. The connection failed for all participants and a new date has not yet been agreed.

32/22 CHURCHES TOGETHER: The next meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday 11th May 2022.

33/22 REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL GROUP: Gillian Millyard report was read by the Clerk. "My roll is mainly holding the parish address book and passing on where people would be happy to get involved, to the relevant co-ordinators/job holders. Sadly, many names are still lacking from this record due to past parishioners not attending over the past three years and no correspondence having been received by subsequent parish priests or previous care group members. Those members still left in the care group are those who are regularly involved in helping or attending Mass. These people will greet newcomers and keep InTouch with long standing parishioners who they have known for many years. At present there are no regular meetings, but information is passed by email, word of mouth and the many of us who meet at the Thursday afternoon teas in the parish centre where all are welcome and tea and conversation flows.

Following the AGM we had an additional person offer to help with church flowers and Paul McIntee has joined the PPC and will speak on Woolpit matters. I shall give Father Simon a list of those who expressed an interest in a Prayer/Passing of the Faith sessions. Hopefully a letter could be sent out to see if someone would be interested in organising something n those lines with Father Simon.

I shall be away from the parish until August and James Spencer has agreed to hold the parish address book in my absence. On my return I will set about organising another Mass for the Sick, Housebound and Elderly in October".

34/22 REPORT FROM CATECHISM GROUP: Father Simon reports that the catechesis sessions are coming to an end of the instructions for First Holy Communion and this will take place on 19th June, the feast of Corpus Christi.

35/22 REPORT FROM PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Carole Kelly's report had been sent to the Clerk. She said that events planned are a Fun Evening on 20th May and a Vintage Afternoon Tea on 16th June. Discussion was taking place about the possibility of holding a Fair in November. She will be calling a meeting in the near future.

Pat Smith spoke about the "Coffee & Chat Group" that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Thanks to donations made by participants it has been possible to purchase various items for use in the refurbished Church Hall. This included saucepans, cooking utensils and a complete set of crockery for everyday use. The group had also given out two monetary donations to good causes, one of which was for CAFOD's work in Ukraine.

36/22 STOWMARKET FOOD BANK: The Chairman stated that the need for support from the Food Bank was now greater than ever, but demand was being met thanks to the generosity of individual donors and local supermarkets. Jo went on to talk about the Pop-up-Shop that was now operating from the Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings. This is now working very well after six weeks and Jo is now in the process of establishing a roster of helpers to spread the load.

37/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS ADVISED AT ITEM 6:

- **NARTHEX RE-ORGANISATION:** Jo Lea said she had spoken to Father Simon about organising the Narthex now that we were regularly using both main doors. Many of the books stored were out of date and there were other obsolete items that should be disposed of. It was agreed that what was needed was a working party and it was thought that a Tuesday evening would suit most. Jo agreed to circulate some dates to assess a consensus. As regards providing new Mass books Father Simon had suggested that we investigate the purchase of a publication/leaflet that gave all details of Sunday readings, responses etc. It was known that the liturgical readings would probably be changing in 2023 and that might be the time to look at new Mass books covering the whole year.
- **FENELLA FORD:** The Council roundly congratulated Fenella on her remarkable achievement in raising over £1,200 for Hungry Children during her Lent walks.

38/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. 262nd OF THE PPC: The next meeting will take place sometime in September, but no date was agreed at this time.

39/22 CLOSING PRAYER: The Chairman formally closed the meeting with a prayer.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.16pm

Signed Date