

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Pastoral Parish Council
Monday 11th November 2024 - Minutes

Attendees: Bernard Hunter, Donna Patros, Fr Michael Copps, Patricia Jolly, Lorna Spears, Robin Shearmur, Cynthia Oji & Geraldine Mansbridge
Fr Michael opened the meeting with a gospel reading and prayer.

Apologies

Matthew Ives & Peter Robson

Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

Henrietta Suite Refurbishment

Before proceeding with this agenda item Stefan Farrelly was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Members were invited to consider and approve the papers which had been previously circulated.

- Project definition – This document outlined the project objectives and governance. This includes establishing a project board, a project team led by Stefan. It was approved unanimously by the PPC.
- Response to the consultation – This was reviewed and endorsed for publication by the PPC. Reference to the cookers was considered but it was noted that any reason to change the cookers would be taken forward by the project team.
- Plan – an outline plan of the changes to the suite was presented, and endorsed unanimously. This included a outline expenditure expectation but that this was not a definitive budget. It was noted that new entrance doors to the suite are included, and that storage for existing items during the works is likely to be an added cost.
- Communications – the PPC agreed that there should be a place on the website for updating parishioners on progress and for regular communications with existing users
- The Chair relayed a report from the Finance committee chair that the parish presently has over £450,000, and that we are running at a healthy surplus of income over expenditure (before discretionary project expenditure included). He concluded that there are no financial concerns regarding this project, though we must still spend parish money wisely.

Stefan left the meeting.

Becket Centre Committee

The Chair reported that he had recently been officially informed that the existing members of the Becket Centre Committee (BCC) had resigned. Many had been on the Committee for a great number of years.

The PPC recorded their thanks to all the former members for their service to the Parish.

It was noted that the constitution of the Committee was dated 2016 and much still remains pertinent. It was agreed that the PPC needs a BCC subcommittee.

Patricia agreed to take forward the continuation of the Committee in the short term. Other members are yet to be identified, and will hopefully be helped initially by some retiring members who have been approached for that purpose.

The new committee will suggest updates to the constitution (or terms of reference). As requested, it was agreed to create a flowchart diagram showing the relationship between the different groups in the parish and the PPC. Geraldine to action.

Fewer Priests

Fr Michael reported on an understandable sense of reluctance for some EM to conduct a eucharistic service. This is a ministry which tends to attract quiet private parishioners, who are happy to support such events as home visits but who do not necessarily seek a public limelight. This can be complimented by the ministry of readers who would have a much larger role to undertake in such a service. It was agreed not to lose momentum following the training in October and for the next steps to organise a service with invited attendees to show that it can be delivered by both the reader and EM supporting each other.

Events 2025

The following dates were agreed for parish events in 2025

- Adoration 28 & 29th March (Fri/Sat)
- Outdoor Mass 8th June (Sun) Date changed following the meeting to 22nd June
- Summer Fete 5th July (Sat)
- AGM 20th July (Sun)
- Bereavement Service 16th November (Sun)
- Christmas Fayre 29th November (Sat)

Project Status

Members were pleased to learn that the new initiative for SVP Vinnie's had attracted 15 young people to its first meeting last week.

The ginger Group continued to meet and undertake work under the TELCO umbrella.

Patricia reported that she was working with Sheila on developing the carers coffee morning initiative to operate 2-weekly and be open to all who would like to attend.

It might grow slowly in the cold winter months, but effective communication and a variety of activities/stimuli were recognised as being key to its development.

Any other business

• PPC Membership

It was reported that Andrew and Sarah had resigned from the PPC. The Chair was asked to write to them thanking them for their service to the Parish.

A proposal to co opt Damian Atkinson onto the PPC was unanimously agreed.

Members were asked to consider who else might be suitable for cooption and discuss with the Chair.

• Volunteers

The Chair reported that there was a concern that volunteers were not coming forward in the way that they use to do. He would propose a campaign to encourage parishioners to find out more about getting involved in church community activities in the new year. All agreed that this was important and needed.

The meeting closed at 9pm with a prayer led by Cynthia

Please note: the next meeting, scheduled for Monday 9th December, will, if possible, be cancelled. The next meeting would then be at 7:30pm on 13th January 2025.