

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - 06/11/17

Attendees: Quentin Jackson, Paul Turpin, Mike Eggleton, Mike O'Sullivan, Michelle Spears, Isobel Evans/Parker, Sue Misiu, Rob Fernandes, Guy Williamson, Jac Edwards.

Also present: Bernard Hunter (Becket Centre Committee), Jill Sharkey, Marie Morris, Janet Morris (Girl Guiding at St. Thomas of Canterbury)

Apologies: Kit Tranmer, Matthew Ives.

1) The minutes from the last Parish Council Meeting were approved.

2) Girl Guiding Group and the Becket Centre Committee

Jill Sharkey, Marie Morris and Janet Morris - Guiding Groups at St. Thomas'

Jill, Marie and Janet, representing the Guiding Groups at St Thomas' (the "Guiding Representatives") , were appealing a decision of the Becket Centre Committee to charge the Guiding Groups for use of the Becket Centre.

The Guiding Representatives explained that the charges set out by the Becket Centre Committee, which are to be paid by all groups who charge subs, are £50 for the use of the Becket Centre and a £60 returnable deposit. This amounts to £330 for the year.

Jill explained that the Guiding Groups (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) have been using the Becket Centre to meet for many years. According to the Guiding Representatives, an informal agreement has always been in place that the Guiding Groups each run a stall at the Parish Christmas fete and that the proceeds raised are donated to the church. The Guiding Representatives explained that they considered this donation to be their good faith contribution to the Church and that any additional charge for the Guiding Groups' use of the Becket Centre was unjustified. They explained that when the Guiding groups first started using the Becket Centre, they were a sponsored group and still only take Catholic girls from this parish as members. The Guiding Representatives expressed their view that, for these reasons, they should not be charged for the use of the Becket Centre. The Guiding Representatives informed the meeting that, should the charge stand, they would not wish to run their usual stalls at this year's Parish Christmas fete. Each Guiding group currently charges £30 per girl, per term to attend Rainbows, Brownies or Guides. Each group also pays insurance to the Guide Association. The Guiding Representatives explained that they are not a profit making organisation and that, in their view, it would be unfair to ask for an increase in subs to cover the annual cost of using the Becket Centre.

Bernard Hunter - Becket Centre Committee

The Becket Centre Committee was formed 2 years ago after complaints about the maintenance of the Becket Centre. A charging structure was put in place due to previous inconsistencies regarding charges. It was decided that the groups that charge subs should pay £50 per year to use the Becket Centre. It was felt that this would give users a sense of ownership and instil respect around the use of the Becket Centre. The charge is a small contribution towards the cleaning of the Centre, the use of electricity and its upkeep. Bernard explained that the Becket Centre Committee wish to ensure transparency and fairness by treating all groups that charge subs in the same way and charging them all the same amount.

Consideration of the Parish Council

After both parties had spoken, members of the Parish Council met privately to consider a solution. It was agreed that, in respect of the Guiding Groups, the charge for using the Becket Centre be waived for 2017 to give the Guiding Groups the time to plan for meeting the cost in the future, and that this subject would be discussed further, before future payments are due.

Suggestions from ME - In future, the decision of the PPC should not be given to appellants on the night. It should be conveyed in writing after the meeting, once agreed by the PPC.

Also; interested parties, who are also members of the Parish Council, should be excluded from hearing evidence, discussion and voting on the matter.

3) Replacement Hut for Brownies

The cost of making good one of the huts for the Brownies has been quoted at £15,000. The Brownies have received sponsorship of £5000 from an outside company, leaving £10,000 to be funded by the Parish. To be considered further at a later date. Three quotes to be sought in line with other parish expenditure.

5) Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Mass times will be: 15:00, 17:15. 19:30 and 22:00 (Night Mass).

There will be no carols sung before Mass.

QJ will cancel the 11:30 mass on Christmas Eve.

6) Becket Centre corridor costs

Decoration of the corridor is currently underway. The budget for this has increased to £7500 due to the poor condition of the walls. These have now been re-lined. This increase was approved.

7) IT and Communications Committee

ME advised that the website is now complete. This will go live on Monday 13th November.

MS to send photos of Parish Council members to ME via Whatsapp.

Personal write-ups are required from: QJ, MO'S, MS, GW and RF.

Write-ups are required from these Sub-Committees: Social Inclusion (GW) and Fabric and Care of Fabric (RF).

8) Social Committee - update postponed until next meeting

9) Liturgy Committee

The Welcome Pack is still in progress, but an interim version is available on the website.

10) AOB

WY asked if there could be an extra Adult Formation evening, specifically to discuss Restructuring and Renewal and the document produced by Steven Webb.

QJ- We cannot hold another Adult Formation Evening on 6th December. There is a special mass on this evening for Miss Curtis's retirement.

There will, however, be further Adult Formation evenings held during Lent.

11) Date of next meeting is 4th December 2017 at 8pm.