

**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

July 1st 2019 at 8pm

**Attendees : Kit Tranmer, Fr. Quentin Jackson, William Yeung, Fr Isidore Faloona,
Mike O'Sullivan, Paul Turpin, Mike Eggleton, Rob Fernandes, Paul Kinman, Paul Dobson,
In attendance: Brian Martin (Finance committee)**

Apologies : Matthew Ives, Isabel Evans Parker, Fr Michael O'Kane Michelle Spears

Minutes of June 10th 2019 meeting were approved

Reports

Reports received have been circulated and are taken as read.

Finance report, Parish Accounts and Budget.

Brian Martin talked the council through the contents of the financial booklet which has been prepared for issue to the parish. Jim Hoban will present its contents to the parish at the AGM. William expressed concern over the falling level of income which he said was worrying. The high level of expenses at the 2019 Garden Fete were explained. The treatment of the collection taken for the OFM at Christmas and Easter was explained indicating that these sums were included in the overall collections figures. Some concern was expressed as to whether this treatment was correct as the funds belonged to the Order and not to the parish. It was decided that this should be looked into by the Finance Committee and a consistent treatment applied to these sums in next years accounts.

Heating replacement costs

Brian explained that the overall cost was currently estimated at circa £860,000 and it was proposed that this be met by the Parish and the Order on a 50/50 basis. Some doubts were expressed about the use of a gas based system as the use of all fossil based fuels is being phased out. No suitable alternative was thought to exist at the current time.

The Council approved the 50/50 basis and asked Kit to write to the Custos accepting his offer of a 50/50 split. He should also point out that the parish did not currently have sufficient funds to meet their share of the cost in full and would need to repay the OFM over a period of time if they were able to fund this.

Elections to the Council at the AGM

4 nominations had been received being three relating to existing members of the Council and one to a new member.

How do we begin next year?

After some discussion, it was agreed that a Saturday morning should be set aside to consider this problem in depth. The Parish Priests should circulate a number of dates for such an event and members should indicate by e-mail their availability. The Saturday which most members can attend should be set aside for this purpose.

Proposed motions for consideration

The first of these dealing with Stewards of the Gospel was not required as this post was soon to be phased out.

The second dealing with the number of members on the council was not required at this time as recruitment of new members was difficult and the number of members is falling well below the maximum in the current constitution.

The third dealing with setting up of a fund to cover requests for assistance was approved and the Finance Committee are to be asked to administer this. They will be asked to advise the Council of their chosen criteria for the operation of this fund which is initially set at £5,000.

It was agreed that the Council will follow the constitution in its decisions and actions.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

This is set for 11th and 12th October from 6pm Friday to 6pm Saturday.

Candles

Paul was unable to provide us with data on the two suppliers under consideration as they had been slow in responding to his requests for information. There appears to be little or no difference between them in terms of cost and we suspect that they both have the same supplier in any case. It was agreed that Kit and Paul be asked to make a decision in negotiation with the suppliers and place an order. It was thought that negotiations would centre around the duration of the guarantee which is currently set at two years.

Donation to the BCCS

This has been requested by a parishioner but it was felt that we could not assist this cause at the present time.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on August 5th 2019 at 8pm.