

## SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Lynn Ireland (in the Chair), Father Niall Mullaley, Father Humphrey Agbim, Rev. Pat Regan, Sr. Catherine Bibby, Rev. Gerard Boyle, Mike Flynn, Stella McGann, Andy Davies, Graham Lysaght and Steve Goulding.

Also attended: Mary Hawksworth (as an Observer)

Opening Prayers were led by Father Niall.

**Apologies for Absence:** Clare Williams and Rev. John Birch

It was reported that Bill Griffiths had offered his resignation from the Council, as he was unable to attend regularly. This was accepted with regret, and the Secretary was asked to let Bill know, and to thank him for his contributions to the meetings **[Action: Mike Flynn]**

#### 1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record, and most matters arising were picked up elsewhere on the agenda. Specific matters addressed were:

- St. Joseph's would develop a Church history leaflet including a Church tour similar to St. Michael's under the St. Philip Neri Parish banner. **[Action: Lynn Ireland].**
- With regard to the Outreach Team and associated Groups, it was intended that a meeting of those concerned would be convened in due course. **[Action: Lynn Ireland and Andrew Collins].**
- Stella had offered to write to the media to see if there might be any interest in the development of the Woodland at St. Michael's and it was confirmed that she should do so. An ongoing action plan was still needed to maintain this area. **[Action: Stella McGann, Steve Goulding plus Others].**

#### 2. Parish Priest's Update

Father Niall was warmly welcomed to his first meeting of PC, having previously been in Ellesmere Port for 16 years, and having been part of amalgamation process that saw 4 parishes eventually becoming two, and now his successor was in a position to merge the remaining two parishes into one, subject to the necessary approval. He was very enthusiastic about his move to Birkenhead

which in practical terms had now been successfully completed. Father Niall had found the Clergy Team meetings on Thursday Evenings valuable in updating on St. Philip Neri Parish developments. He was very happy to be here, and would bring with him experience on consultations for Parish developments, including the importance of learning to help each other as changes were made, and sharing the vision of why change was necessary and helping people to 'own' the process. Just before the Pandemic he had been working with some parishioners on the "Our Common Home" programme which focused on the environment and related improvements as envisaged by Pope Francis. It would be important to share this overall vision together and to build on what had already been achieved in the new Parish.

### **3. Update on Impacts of Covid 19**

Both Churches remained open and thanks were again due to the teams of Stewards for enabling this to happen, and in particular Steve Goulding and Paul Davenport for co-ordinating. A number of changes had been made since July, and the Parish was still following the Bishops' Council Guidance. As a result, parishioners were being asked to be sensible about distancing, to wear masks in Church, including when singing although the Choir was able to perform without masks. It was understood that since July, Churches would be open for outside bookings and as rehearsal and concert venues for Choral Groups.

With regards to Eucharistic Ministers and home visits, a Parish meeting for both Churches had been arranged for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the Raiswell Room, when issues concerning Care Homes and individual Eucharistic Minister visits would be considered. It was understood that only one visit at a time would be allowed, and that a lateral flow test by the Minister would be required beforehand. (It was subsequently confirmed that the meeting would be held at 7pm). **[Action: Gerard Boyle]**.

A meeting of all Stewards to review the role and to consider other possible responsibilities after any new Guidance was issued could be needed. PPC would be kept up to date via email **[Action: Father Niall, Paul Davenport and Steve Goulding]**.

### **4. Health and Safety Issues**

Fire risk assessments had been undertaken in both Churches in May, leading to a number of recommendations and actions. The position at St. Michael's was known, but the situation at St. Joseph's was less clear and would have to be resolved. More detailed risk assessments would be needed for both buildings,

to be supplemented by specific risk assessments to reflect the bookings made and the use of specific rooms for particular purposes. The cost implications of any improvements required would have to be taken into account.

An asbestos survey and remedial work had been completed at St. Joseph's last summer, which had resulted in all walls in the cellar being given warning notices, although originally only one wall was identified as needing treatment. The report and certificate of completion have finally been received from the inspecting body. Tony Ireland has been liaising with Julie Tinsley and has raised further issues with her.

The circumstances surrounding the heart attack victim at Mass at St. Joseph's on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September were considered in detail, and thankfully he was now making a good recovery. There was a consequent need for a heart defibrillator to be installed at both Churches, and Gerard updated on the position. The two machines could be made available for installation through the Oliver King Foundation at a total cost of £2500 subject to confirmation from the Diocese. Funds were available in the Parish to cover this, and appropriate training would also be provided. It was agreed that we should proceed to install both machines, and that the Liturgy Team should be asked to consider how any such problems in the future should be addressed during services. Voluntary contributions to the costs could be sought once the defibrillators had been installed.

Lastly, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) was required throughout the Parish for any portable electrical items. This could be an expensive exercise, but it was felt that some Parishioners may be able to help and that the Diocese might be able to contribute to the costs through providing machines in particular.

**[Action: Gerard Boyle, Fr. Niall and Steve Goulding].**

## **5. Safeguarding**

No issues had arisen and no further actions were needed at this time.

## **6. Strategic Vision and Objectives**

It was agreed that this should be subject to a single item agenda for consideration at a future meeting **[Action: Mike Flynn]**

## **7. Further Development of Parish Structures**

It remained difficult to take forward the leadership and membership of the Outreach and Evangelisation Teams in the current circumstances, but both were very important. This included the "99" course and many other activities which were taking place pre – Covid. It was encouraging that more parishioners

had returned to Church, particularly for weekday Masses, and that many social contacts had been resumed. However, family attendances seemed to have reduced, and it was recognised that both Schools would have an important role to undertake in encouraging better family attendance.

It was also felt that liturgical planning throughout the year, including the high priorities such as Advent and Lent, should be maintained. This would need to feature highly at the next meeting of Liturgy Team. It was also queried whether the Social Team had been able to meet recently. Otherwise, the importance of a meeting soon of the Finance Team was agreed, to consider amongst other matters which charity support would be given during the year.

Accordingly, it was noted that the Finance and Liturgy Teams would meet again shortly, with Liturgy meeting again on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm [**Action: Lynn to convene**] and Finance on a date to be arranged [**Action: Andy Davies**]

### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm immediately following Mass that evening. [**Action: Mike Flynn**]

### **9. Other Business**

- Graham updated on the arrangements for the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 24<sup>th</sup> October, with 45 parishioners attending. There would be regular updates in the Newsletter and a meeting for all on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm at St. Michael's.
- Lynn reported on the Heritage Weeks' arrangements at both Churches in September. At St. Joseph's 11 visitors had attended on 11<sup>th</sup> September, with 6 at St. Michael's. On 18<sup>th</sup> there had been 3 at St. Joseph's and 6 at St. Michael's. Comments left in the book were most favourable and all of the arrangements had worked well.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm with Closing Prayers.

Mike Flynn, Secretary