

St. John Fisher Church Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 1st December 2008
at 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Present: Fr. Kevin Jordan, Edna Arulanantham, John Billiet, Maura Brady, Rob Browne, Michael Glynn, Jessica Gooch, Barbara Jukes, Karen Lury, Brian Morahan (Chair), Kay O'Connor,

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ann Anderson, Hilary O'Byrne, Chris Thoumine

Approval of Minutes 19th May and 22nd September 2008

The minutes for both the above meetings were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the above minutes.

Premises Report

John Billiet had distributed a report on various aspects of the church premises which included:

- An update on the storage area,
- Security – giving details of three instances of theft from the premises in recent weeks, together with recommendations for ensuring that the premises are made more secure.
- Equipment Storage Plan – A list was given of suggested items to be kept in the new storage area.
- Small Hall – A total renovation is required which includes repairing/replacing ceiling tiles, repairing/replacing windows, sanding down and re-sealing the floor, replacing outside door.
- Pre-School intend to apply for a government grant to provide an outside play area which, in turn, would mean that the brown shed would be demolished and the Imperial Players would move into the blue shed. Quotations are awaited from builders. Detailed discussion took place on the feasibility of the proposed works. The final decision to grant permission for the works to go ahead would be the responsibility of the Diocesan Premises Department.

Finance

Jessica Gooch presented the report which had originally been distributed at the Annual Parish Meeting. She stated that no further information on finance was to hand except for the results of the Parish Bazaar which raised £5,211.77.

Update on Youth Initiatives

World Youth Day had given presentations at the Annual Parish Meeting and Christmas Bazaar, both of which went very well.

Maura Brady had proposed that the parish coffee morning should be held after both the 10am Mass and 11.30am Mass and that profits from the December sessions would go to the Westminster Catholic Children's Society.

Fr. Kevin was of the opinion that the extra session should be for a trial period and parish groups should be encouraged to become involved. A letter inviting these groups to become involved would be sent in the new year.

A short discussion took place as to whether the session on 21st December should be moved to the Feast of the Epiphany on the 4th January – it was agreed that the date of 21st December should stand.

Fr. Kevin needs to be informed with regard to the charities put forward to receive donations from the proceeds of the coffee mornings.

Barbara Jukes reported that after the last meeting she contacted the Imperial Players with the possibility of getting more youth involved in their productions. A notice had been put in the newsletter but there had been no response. It was proposed to repeat the notice in the new year. Fr. Kevin would be putting up information on the youth notice board regarding David Burke, the Diocesan Youth Worker.

Catechist's Report

Kay O'Connor had distributed her report to members.

Sacramental preparation classes had now started. Saturday morning religious education classes continue to grow every week with new families enrolling. More catechists are needed and Kay has had a good response for help with 11 new parents coming forward, but if numbers increase in September, the situation may have to be reviewed.

Kay will be contacting David Burke inviting him to attend a meeting for Young Christian Workers to run Impact – which is specifically for younger children from Confirmation age to 18 years.

During half term Kay and Fr. Kevin had gone with the youth to Thorpe Park – a very enjoyable day for all.

It is proposed that training will be set up for all new helpers to include those for Saturday religious education classes.

Parish Priest's Report

Fr. Kevin had distributed his report giving details of the duties he had carried out and the meetings he had attended since the last meeting. Because he had broken his wrist and was unable to drive, he had been restricted on some of the duties he would normally carry out.

Hospital Chaplaincy – Fr. Kevin reported that as a result of European directives, Northwick Park and Central Middlesex Hospital Trust were insisting that Fr. Agustin will not be allowed to work more than 39 hours per week which means that he is not allowed to cover beyond 5 days and 2 nights. Sr. Barbara insists that hospital cover is a Deanery responsibility but the Diocese has appointed another priest to cover the additional times that he is no longer allowed to work so that we still only are responsible for 1700 Friday until 0800 Saturday on a rota basis.

Any Other Business

Music – Jessica Gooch raised the point regarding singing practice before Mass.

Fr. Kevin had received similar comments. Parishioners come early to prepare for Mass and it was felt that there was no need for rehearsals.

Barbara Jukes enquired about the procedure regarding Mass intentions which are not celebrated in our parish – is it possible to know where the Mass will be celebrated. Fr. Kevin said that Masses intentions sent to Westminster for distribution are allocated to various priests, for example those who are retired, overseas missions. If a request is received to have a Mass celebrated in our parish on a particular date, please give at least one month's notice and contact Mary in the Parish House.

Fencing - Fr. Kevin had received a letter from a resident in a neighbouring property stating their fencing was damaged by contractors when carrying out work on the new storage area and requested that repairs should be carried out. Fr. Kevin has responded that this accusation cannot be proved but as a gesture of goodwill, he is happy to arrange for the damaged areas to be repaired.

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Monday, 23rd February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Upper Room.

Future meeting dates were listed on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm with a prayer led by Fr. Kevin.