

St. John Fisher Church Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 18th May 2009
at 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Present: Fr. Kevin Jordan, Edna Arulanantham, John Billiet, Maura Brady, Rob Browne, Barbara Jukes, Karen Lury, Brian Morahan (Chair), Hilary O'Byrne, Kay O'Connor, Chris Thoumine

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Apologies for Absence

Ann Anderson, Michael Glynn, Jessica Gooch.

Approval of Minutes 23rd February 2009

The minutes for the above meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the minutes.

Premises Report

John Billiet handed out a report on various aspects of the church premises which included:

- Small Hall – Installation of new door, together with security lock, and windows is complete.
A quotation of £1,375 has been received for sanding and sealing the floor – work to be undertaken during half term holiday.
Walls to be painted during the next few weeks.
Majority of equipment has been moved into the main store with the remainder to be moved before work on the floor commences.
- Hall Users Information Sheet – A list of regulations had been drawn up for hall users. It was agreed that this would need to be distributed within the very near future to ensure that doors and windows were locked and secure.

Action: Brian Morahan to write to hall users to remind them of the need to secure the premises after use.

Rob Browne provided an update on the Pre-School's grant application for an outside play area, which is still being progressed with input from the Diocese and Parish Council.

Fr. Kevin thanked Rob Browne and Brian Morahan for the extensive amount of time they have spent on this matter, which is very much appreciated.

Finance

In the absence of Jessica Gooch Mary Evans gave a brief resume of the report which had been distributed to members. Fr. Kevin enlarged on the proposed renovation of the upper floor of the Parish House, which has been offered to Fr. Andrew Wadsworth. Fr. Andrew, formerly chaplain at Harrow School, has been appointed to the ICEL in Washington and will need accommodation when he is staying in this country. The work entails a new bathroom suite, repair to windows, new radiators and some decorating.

Catechist's Report

Kay O'Connor had distributed a report giving details of preparation taking place in the parish for the reception of various sacraments.

Year 8 children attended a meeting in February to give their ideas for a trip before the summer holidays.

She attended a catechetical training and development day and also a vetting and barring day at Westminster which will entail changes in the present system of checking individuals who work with children and vulnerable adults.

She also gave details of other duties carried out since the last meeting.

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.

He heard confessions at Harrow School – there are 150 Catholic boys attending. As Fr. Andrew will be leaving, it is possible that Fr. Kevin could be approached to carry out some duties at the school until a permanent chaplain has been appointed.

There is a possibility that 7am Mass may be celebrated on holydays in the future.

Parish Council – 3 Year Election Process

Brian Morahan distributed a copy of the procedures on the election process which are based on the Constitution of St. Luke's Pinner.

It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting might be the best opportunity to vote for those wishing to stay on the Council and any new people who may be interested in putting themselves forward should speak to Fr. Kevin beforehand. In order to vote you must be registered as a parishioner.

Barbara Jukes put forward the suggestion that perhaps some members of the Parish Council might be able to attend the monthly coffee mornings before the Annual Parish Meeting. This would entail an informal chat with parishioners who may be interested in coming forward, to explain the commitment which they would be expected to make and to update them on recent projects i.e. new building work, decoration etc. Barbara will compose a notice for the parish newsletter.

Fr. Kevin asked members to give some thought as to whether they wished to continue or stand down and let him know their decision by email or text.

If there are more candidates than the required amount, then a ballot vote will be carried out by parishioners.

Any Other Business

Kay O'Connor asked whether a representative of the Parish Council could attend an adult formation meeting organised by the Department of Evangelisation with her, the objective being to find out what parishioners would like to be made available with regard to finding out more about their faith for example in Lent talks, Bible study groups etc. It is possible that there will be more than one meeting. Karen Lury offered to represent the Parish Council.

Rental charges for those using the parish hall are to be resolved – Fr. Kevin and Rob Brown to discuss.

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Monday, 21st September at 7.30pm in the Upper Room.

Future meeting dates were listed on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 9pm with a prayer led by Fr. Kevin.