

## **St. John Fisher Church Parish Council**

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
at 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Present: Fr. Kevin Jordan, Ann Anderson, Edna Arulanantham, John Billiet,  
Maura Brady, Rob Browne, Michael Glynn, Jessica Gooch, 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**

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Jukes, Karen Lury.

### **Approval of Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

Following the amendment to the minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007, the minutes for both 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were approved and signed.

### **Matters Arising**

The Badminton Group have paid the first instalment of £100 towards the cost of floor markings in the Parish Hall.

John Billiet reported that EDF have replaced the boundary fencing which makes the parish garden more secure.

The Imperial Players have advised that instead of having their usual production in July, their main priority will be to clear their storage shed.

### **Premises Report**

John Billiet had distributed an update report on the Parish Hall floor, Church roof, garage store, signs for the car park, gates and Parish Hall locks.

The Sanctuary roof light is leaking and needs to be replaced but there is difficulty finding a manufacturer.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of cars since the car park signs have been erected. Brian Morahan asked if it was possible whether the Police could make periodic checks. Detailed discussion took place with regard to the temporary storage of furniture etc. while the garage is being demolished and replacement building erected, and the storage needs of the Imperial Players, Pre-School and 1:2:1 Club.

Rob Browne reported that discussions had taken place with the Badminton Group with regard to their contribution for using the Parish Hall. After making enquiries from other local facilities, it was felt that a contribution of £10 per hour i.e. £25 per session should be made. This, of course, would have to be ratified by the Finance Committee.

Hilary O'Byrne reported that she and Karen Lury had been collating information from the surveys of the various parish organisations and groups. Hilary asked how decisions were made on the rents charged for using the Parish Hall and felt that an agreed standard policy should be put in place. Jessica Gooch said that this subject had been discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting and, in general, charges are requested from those groups which do not come under the auspices of WRCDT i.e. Pre-School, Imperial Players, Tai Chi, Badminton. It was stressed that a rent is not charged, rather a contribution towards the costs of running the parish hall i.e. cleaning, heating, lighting, repairs etc. Fr. Kevin made the point that there are some groups which meet a pastoral need without financial gain and we have a responsibility as a parish and he, as Parish Priest, to support such groups. Likewise there are groups which only meet a social need and, therefore, it would be appropriate to make a charge. Detailed discussion took place and it was agreed that after assessing all the groups, a policy for all with regard to charges should be decided on.

It was suggested that there should be a speaker at all Masses to inform parishioners as to the decisions being made by the Parish Council and Finance Committee. It was pointed out that the Parish Council Meeting minutes are displayed in the Church porch and also parishioners are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Fr. Kevin said that the Parish Council is strictly an advisory body but the Cardinal insists that every parish must have a Parish Council.

It was agreed that Hilary and Karen will collate all the information from the questionnaires, which will be distributed at the next Parish Council meeting.

### **Finance Report**

Jessica Gooch presented a report which was distributed.

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Pre-School are still having difficulty with the amount they are being asked to contribute i.e. £125 from September 2008 and £150 from September 2009, and have requested an extension of 5 years rather than 3 years. A decision will be made at the next Finance Committee meeting in July.

A considerable amount of hard work has been put into raising money for the young people going to World Youth Day in Australia - a number of parish groups have had events to raise money.

### **Update on Youth Initiative**

Maura Brady distributed a report for the youth. It was felt that the earlier time of 10am could not be adopted because of congestion in the car park. Brian Morahan suggested that other parish groups who are in need of funds could be approached and may wish to help at the coffee mornings.

Curry Night – The response so far has been disappointing, possibly because it is half term. 50 tickets have been given to the youth and parents – yet to know if sold. Maura will enquire from the Social Club as to whether a licence is needed to sell alcohol.

Kay O'Connor reported that there is a day out to Thorpe Park on 27<sup>th</sup> May. The coach has been difficult to fill because of half term

### **Parish Priest's Report**

Fr. Kevin had distributed his report giving details of the duties he had carried since the last meeting.

He reported that St. Dominic's Sixth Form College criteria are failing Catholics – due to over-subscription, priority is being given to non-Catholics who have been predicted higher GCSE results. Four of our young parishioners have not been given a place. They are all extremely involved in parish life as well as their parents. It would appear that the College is more concerned about grades rather than Catholicity. St. Dominic's does not receive any funding from WRCDT. The parents concerned have written letters and two have had replies stating that their children do not meet the criteria. As it is a letter of refusal, these parents have a right to appeal against the decision. Fr. Kevin, together with the other parish priests of the Harrow Deanery will be meeting with Mr. Harty in the very near future and Fr. Kevin will report back on the result of this meeting.

Discussion took place over the availability of places at St. Joan of Arc. Originally over 20 children did not get a place but this has now been reduced to just one child. Fr. Kevin supported to appeal.

Mass to include the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> July and 11 February 2009 (Our Lady of Lourdes).

There have not been any complaints about the sound system since the last meeting, but Brian Morahan said that he did not think it had improved. Fr. Kevin will look into this.

A suggestion was made that on the next Day of Recollection for Readers, time could be set aside for voice training.

A lady in the parish has taken on the responsibility of having a Prayer Group. The Upper Room would be available for a venue.

Various questions/suggestions had been received regarding publishing the amount of the collections once a month, photographs of the deceased being displayed at funeral masses, posters for Holy Week not being available, having a Youth Liturgy before going on WYD, and on Holy Saturday morning Fr. Kevin had received the suggestion that the parish would benefit from less ethnics. This unhelpful comment could not be responded to because the person concerned preferred to remain anonymous.

**Any Other Business**

Questionnaires to parish groups - It was suggested that a shorter version should be sent out quarterly and the full version sent out half yearly. Information regarding age range, key holders and email addresses should be included.

Upper Room Stairs – being refurbished in the very near future.

Pre-School have asked if it is possible, when the Imperial Players shed is demolished, to have a play area in its place. It was agreed that this could be allowed and would possibly enhance appeal for the users of the Social Club who have families. The parish would not have to incur any cost for this.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Upper Room.

Future meeting dates were listed on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm with a prayer led by Fr. Kevin.