

## St. John Fisher Church Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008  
At 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Present: Fr. Kevin Jordan, Ann Anderson, Edna Arulanantham, Michael Glynn, Jessica Gooch, 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**

Apologies for absence were received from John Billiet, Maura Brady, Rob Browne

### **Approval of Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

An amendment was agreed under Parish Priest's Report as follows:

".....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."

### **Premises Report**

In the absence of John Billiet, Fr. Kevin reported that work had started on the replacement garage and it is anticipated that the works will be completed in about a month. Jessica Gooch asked whether there were any plans for the small hall. At present there are no plans but ideas about blocking in pipework and replacing the hung ceiling have been discussed. Heaters and fans have been cleaned out in the church and hall and boilers have been serviced.

### **Finance**

Jessica Gooch presented a report which had been distributed. Pre-School Chair had requested a meeting with Fr. Kevin to ask whether the rental charge could be extended over 5 years to September 2011. After having listened to the request, a compromise had been reached, details as per the report. After September 2011 payments would then be up for negotiation, taking into account inflation and increases in heating and lighting. The original budget of £30K for the new storage shed has now risen to £38K - £40K. A new piano has been purchased for £3,050. Copyright licence - no further forward from the last meeting.

### **Update on Youth Initiatives**

Edna Arulanantham reported that the last coffee morning was a success and had raised about £50.

World Youth Day - £500 -£600 was raised and distributed to the young people, who will be giving a presentation, with photographs etc., at a date to be confirmed. Kay O'Connor attended WYD and was very impressed by the impact the event had on both our young people and the other 250,000 young people who had attended.

A youth outing to Thorpe Park for school years 7 & 8 was being organized.

### **Parish Hall User Group Questionnaires - Feedback**

Karen Lury asked whether the questionnaire should be compiled more than once a year.

Brian Morahan agreed to look into the possibility of creating a more concise version.

It was agreed that the content of information given was good but, if handwritten, difficult to read. The total number of hall user groups is 16.

Protracted and detailed discussion took place with regard to the survey responses under the heading 'What they ask of the Parish Council' (copy attached with comments). Fr. Kevin gave an up-to-date report on the situation with the 1:1 group.

It was agreed that any new group wishing to use the hall would be issued with a questionnaire and advised of the facilities available. Brian Morahan suggested that a re-vamped form could be issued once storage facilities have been sorted out.

It was suggested that various parish groups could help to run the coffee mornings.

There was a suggestion that Colin Hinton, Endeavour Magazine, could be asked to do an article on the various groups in the parish and also, with permission, details could be put on the website.

Hilary O'Byrne, Barbara Jukes & Jessica Gooch agreed to look at the feasibility of creating a 'Rough Guide to the Parish' for new joiners.

### **Catechist's Report**

Kay O'Connor introduced herself and gave a brief description of her role in the parish.

First Holy Communion – 56 children had been enrolled in this programme, which is now under way.

Confirmation – An outing to Thorpe Park had been organized with 40 of last year's candidates.

Baptism Preparation – Courses are carried out every month (during term time). So far this year 45 baptisms have taken place.

RCIA - To date 11 enquirers have come forward with a possibility of 5 more.

Saturday classes – Since the expansion of St. John Fisher School, numbers have regularly decreased but the new term has seen the largest intake for some time. This could be due to new parishioners coming into the area in the past year or more children are being privately educated. This has meant that some of the groups which had previously been amalgamated will now need to be split, and subsequently there are not enough catechists who can spare 1 ½ - 2 hours every Saturday during term time.

Kay also works with the youth of the parish and with the Confirmation programme.

On the pastoral side she completed the sponsored walk for the KSC, visits and gives communion to the housebound, and has helped Fr. Kevin with a young person in the parish who did work experience with us.

She is also on working parties at Vaughan House, a governor at St John Fisher school and carries out catechetical training and development in Pinner as well as giving support to other catechists in the diocese.

### **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.

Detailed discussion took place on the current situation with regard to the admission criteria to St. Dominic's Sixth Form College, and reported that Bishop Stack has requested a further meeting to clarify the situation - the ultimate goal is for St. Dominic's to decide whether they are a Catholic sixth form college or a sixth form college with a Catholic ethos. Fr. Kevin said that he feels unless young people have good projected grades, there is no point in giving a reference. Fr. Kevin will keep the members up to date on the situation.

Work experience went well with a young person from the parish.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm. The usual notice will be put in the Newsletter requesting that items for the Agenda should be sent in no later than 14 days prior to meeting.

There will be an update on what has been done in the parish in the past year in the parish i.e. doors, storage, etc,

### **Any other business**

It was agreed that coffee mornings could be held, on a trial basis, after the 10:00am Mass instead of after 11.30am Mass.

A suggestion had been received that the hall should be used for fundraising events – this already happens.

Kneelers in the Church – refurbishment is being looked into.

The Social Club requested that, following a recent event, bar facilities should be used rather than drinks being brought in from outside for consumption.

Music at 8.30a.m. Mass – A suggestion had been received that there should be no music once a month.

Water butts to be placed at the bottom of down pipes to conserve water and use for watering the parish gardens. It was agreed that the cost of this exercise would be of no benefit to the cost of water rates.

Michael Glynn, in his ministry as Eucharistic Minister, pointed out that some of our young people, including altar boys, were taking too much wine from the Chalice especially at 6pm Mass.

Chris Thoumine also pointed out that the host is not always consumed straightaway.

Fr. Kevin will address both these points in his editorial about receiving communion in the hand and taking of wine in the very near future.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Brian Morahan cannot attend the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November and asked if the meeting could be changed to Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting could be changed.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm with a prayer led by Fr. Kevin.