

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - 7.00 pm**

Present: Fr Gordon, Jim Cunningham, David Aaron, Ian Cowan, Martina McCollom, Siobhan McEvoy, Martin McLean, Barbara Morgan, Marie Newbould, John Turver.  
 Julie Humphrey – Chair of Hogarth Partnership

**The meeting opened with a prayer**

1	<b>Apologies.</b> Gerry Connor, John Kilgour, Rachel McGovern, Marie Newbould, Brenda Sanderson.
2	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting.</b> The minutes were read and agreed.
3	<p><b>Parish Finances – MMcL</b>          The bank balances as at end January 2019 are:          Deposit account £215,255.31          Current account £16,887.36          The deposit account will be reduced by payment of the Side Altars restoration invoice of £21,840, we are hoping to claim back £3,630 in VAT, which would give us £197,055.18 in the deposit account.          We have also been given estimates for the refurbishment of the Stations of the Cross, £480 +VAT, total £8k and the two other statues in the Church of around £2K each. Could we see if we think these need to be done and bring back our views to the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had verbal approval for the kitchen extension in the PC, and have now received the written confirmation, with a stipulation that we report back to the Diocese before we undertake any work.            Hoping to do the work in 3 stages, heating, patio doors and then the Kitchen. If we move the heater on the back wall to the side walls, we could then have a serving hatch from the kitchen direct into the main hall. The patio doors (funded by the Parish Club) will be done before the kitchen as bookings already in the diary for this year, so June-September 2020 have been cleared from the diary for the kitchen refurbishment.</li> <li>• Monthly Church Collection. Fr Gordon put forward a suggestion to have one monthly second collection, which could then be divided and used for the second collections that the Diocese ask us to support. Parishioners would still have their own designated gift aid envelopes and there would be envelopes at the back of church for other parishioners to use. To be put on the Agenda for the next 'open' parish council meeting.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Hogarth Partnership Update</b>          JH gave an update and was thanked by JC for the recent insert in the bulletin.          A vision and mission statement still need to be finalised, the next meeting is at the beginning of February when these should be agreed. Fr Gordon has now taken over as Dean and President of the Hogarth Partnership. There has been more input from Fr J Dodd's, Vicariate Episcopal Vicar and a meeting arranged with Fr G, JH, Ray Abbot, Vice Chair and Fr Dodd's before the next partnership meeting.          The partnership is financially secure.          The Property and Community team is working well looking at all the different uses of the various buildings. A Diocesan Sounding Board has been set up with 3 different partnerships</p>

	<p>preparing their proposals for the short, medium and long term, we are shadowing it with Kevin Donegan going to all the meetings so we can be ready to go when required.</p> <p>Partnership account up and running.</p> <p>Finance Group still to set up.</p> <p>Partnership play going well with a cast of 22 from around the partnership. The first date is 13<sup>th</sup> March, and will be as before, ie taking the play around each parish within the partnership. There will be a matinee in St Augustine's and will finish in St Augustine's on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Publicity and tickets will be available at the next PDG Meeting.</p> <p>The partnership needs to write their plan and how we are going to develop as a partnership. A training course is starting this Saturday "Called and Gifted". We did have somebody in mind to do the training, but after viewing the document they have decided it isn't right for them. There are around 50 people in the diocese attending the training. It will be 3 days training and you would be expected to give up 2 ½ days a year to help facilitate this. If anybody knows anybody who would be suitable to let JH know, would prefer it to be somebody new, not the same people who do everything. Although it is starting this weekend, we would still be able to access the programme.</p>
5	<p><b>Youth Worker – JH</b></p> <p>The view given by most parishes was that we should be doing more for the youth. We have the money to employ a youth worker but there are points that need to be considered. JH passed around a sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the aim of the post?</li> <li>• Who would we like this post holder to work with?</li> <li>• What type of activities would we envisage they would be involved in?</li> <li>• Where would they be based?</li> <li>• Who will line manage them day to day?</li> <li>• Who will oversee their work, evaluate and guide them?</li> <li>• How will this be funded?</li> <li>• Can we ensure that the position is financially sustainable</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mass Booklet</b> Fr Gordon passed around a copy of a booklet that is in the final process of being put together by the Students of the John Paul II awards at Carmel. To be available by end of February. Children's Mass books have also been purchased for use in Church.</li> <li>• <b>Side Altars</b> Now completed and invoice sent to Diocese for payment and reclaim of VAT.</li> <li>• <b>Signs on Gates</b> Fr Gordon would like 2 small signs on the gates at the bottom of the Church Lane, with information on Sunday Mass times, telephone/email and website. To also look at having direction signs to the Church on the walls of the Parish Centre. <b>Agreed.</b></li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Parish Open Meeting – Meet the Parish Council</b></p> <p>To have the next meeting of the Parish Council in the Parish Centre and invite the parish to come along, the meeting to be held before Easter. Probably have to be a Sunday evening due to the bookings already in the diary. Date to be agreed.</p>
8	<p><b>School Parking – M McCollom</b></p> <p>The lack of parking around the school is becoming more difficult and the school is looking at ways to alleviate the parking issues. Could we use the car park as a drop off point for a "walking train"? Would also like to see if permission could be given for several cars to have limited access to the car park say between 8.30-9.10am to park and walk to school and</p>

	would need a limited time at the end of the day. Both points would need to be discussed with the Parish Club Directors.
9	<p><b>Breakfast Club and access to Simpson Room – M McCollom</b></p> <p>Looking at the possibility of setting up a breakfast club in the Youth Hall, Simpson Room, or Parish Centre. After discussions it was felt that as the Youth Hall does not have catering facilities, the Simpson Room is used for the playgroup, so the best option would be the Parish Centre. For further discussion.</p>
10	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety in Church – M McCollom</b></p> <p>Due to the recent incident in Church the question was raised as to whether we have any Fire Wardens? Should we have fire extinguishers on the Altar, does anybody know how to use the extinguishers, would it be possible to have some training? The meeting was told that Darlington Borough Council and the Fire Brigade do training.</p> <p>Should we have a list of First Aiders in case they are needed? – perhaps ask people if they would be willing to have their name on a list – would need to provide an up to date certificate.</p> <p>To be on the Agenda for the next meeting.</p>
11	<p><b>Spirituality – S McEvoy</b></p> <p>The Alpha training has taken place, with a pilot group of participants and leaders. Starting the first Alpha Course next week, everyone welcome which will take place over 13 weeks. There are 17 people already signed up. There is a group of about 8 leaders from throughout the partnership and hoping to get a banner to advertise it further. Fr G commented that it would have been good to have the Alpha Course starting after the end of the RCIA course. It is hoping to run Alpha several times a year. It is seen as purely a basic starter for those who want to discover their faith, it is ecumenical and available to anybody, not just Catholics. Attended the Diocesan Spirituality network meeting. Resources were given for the Lenten programme, no plan at the moment to run this – last year it was held in a different parish each week. Looking at trying to get more people involved in spirituality events and feels that the wording puts people off. Looking at alternative names, Space for Grace. There were lots of good ideas happening in the other partnerships, some have WhatsApp groups, sending out notes and prayers and reflections – this could be covered if we had a paid employee. Lots of support for our own Peace, prayer and prosecco event.</p>
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JT said a friend in York told him about a Naming Sunday, where everybody is given a label and write their own name on, which starts conversations. Perhaps we could do a similar event with the Welcomers giving out the labels.</li> <li>• Fr G had asked the confirmation candidates what could be done different, cushion pews to make the place more comfortable was one answer, these could be tied onto the pews with removable covers.</li> <li>• Pope John Paul II awards group have 18 young people with 11 from this parish. This is multi-denominational, and JC will let all the parishes know the names of the students from their parish and if they know of anything that the students could get involved with to contact himself or Erica Lewis. Some of them are helping sort the clothes out – for Lunch Club - with the SVP group this weekend.</li> <li>• Summit taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> February, is it in the Church or Parish Centre. It is being advertised by the Diocese as the Church. <b>Taking place in the Parish Centre.</b></li> <li>• MMc asked for news on Fr Anthony – Divine Mercy. Fr G and Fr David had written to the Diocese and had a meeting but informed that they weren't allowed to be active as the necessary paperwork is not in place, along with H&amp;S issues and Safeguarding.</li> </ul>

	<p>There are at least 100 parishioners being inconvenienced and upset. Fr G asked if Fr Anthony could say Mass here for the group, but he is not allowed.</p> <p>The meeting asked if we could organise a petition from the parish which Fr G would not object to.</p>
13	<p>Meeting finished at 9.00 pm.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm (open meeting) in the Parish Centre.</p>