

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 2nd September 2021 – 6.00pm
In Church

Present: Fr Gordon, David Aaron, Rachel McGovern, Martin McLean, Barbara Morgan
 John McGovern – Chair of Parish Club/Centre

1	<p>Apologies. Jim Cunningham, Gerry Connor, Siobhan McEvoy, Julie Humphrey – Chair of Partnership Development Group</p> <p>John Kilgour, Martina McCollom, Brenda Sanderson, John Turver</p>
2	<p>Update on Re-Opening Church / Parish Centre Fr G – had hoped to make some decisions about re-opening the Church but with all guidelines in place until end of August with a further meeting on 10th September, Bishops Council, and they will hopefully give us some more information, so we have put everything on hold. We were hoping to have a celebration in Church and then over in the Centre (again restrictions still in place) where all the groups in the parish could promote themselves. No idea of how many people there will be. We might have to repeat it over several weekends, but we need to start somewhere.</p> <p>RMcG – Have been talking with the people in the music group we were hoping to start mid-October. Fr G said that music and singing is allowed by the music groups but no participation by the congregation. We will work towards either 10th or 17th October.</p> <p>DA - Are you having any servers back? Fr G - Yes would hope so.</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers still not allowed we aren't allowed the chalice, but at the most we could have one Eucharistic Minister wearing gloves.</p> <p>What about Sunday 6.30 mass? would like to start that but again it depends on how much stewarding we need and sanitising that might be needed after the Mass.</p> <p>Do we keep the Stewards? – allow people to use their common sense, but it would be good for the Stewards to help guide people, especially those who haven't been coming to Mass.</p> <p>If we get permission to relax guidelines, we will put these plans in place.</p>
3	<p>Parish Centre Update Finally got permission from the Diocese for the full kitchen extension and outside patio and patio doors. The work on the patio starting on Monday and should take about a week. Doors should be arriving Friday and installed the week after.</p> <p>We have been closed ever since March 2020 and as a committee we took the view that we weren't going to re-open whilst the pandemic was on. We hoped that after the 19th July we would be allowed to open without having to take any measures. That is not how things are. Following the relaxation, the Diocese took the decision to continue with all restrictions whilst everywhere is still at high risk. We now must install of COVID-19 measures and go through an on-line risk assessment before we can re-open.</p> <p>The Diocese is looking at this in in two ways, parish use and external hires. They need a designated leader and have also done their own risk assessment. The designated leader will take responsibility and they have to have PL insurance in place. The Diocese putting all risk on the organisation. Also, the kitchen is out of bounds.</p>

	<p>We are in a position of having allowed some events end September/October and the solution we have made is the Parish Club is a separate entity, has PL insurance and would have people on site, so the Parish Club would be the hirer and they will run the event, although we still need permission.</p> <p>We had to do our own risk assessment for the Parish Centre before re-opening and had good support from Safety Toolbox and have got permission to re-open within the guidelines for one commercial hirer. We are very fortunate to have Brian Whelan (H&S) who will be guiding us in the risk assessments which are needed for every event. The Diocese seems to ring him for advice.</p> <p>We have had to reduce numbers in the Parish Centre and there will be no Sunday Coffees after Mass.</p> <p>Fr G - an enormous amount of work that has been undertaken and would like to thank John McGovern and Barbara Morgan</p> <p>JMcG said that we would like to re-open but need to ensure that all guidelines are in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Hall roof will need some major attention. MMcL said we might be able to claim for water damage through the insurance. • DA – has there been much uptake on the car park. <p>JMcG - Deep Ocean have now gone and we have a handful of commercial permits. We should encourage members to renew their membership. We have had some government support.</p>
4	<p>Finance</p> <p>MMcL thanked BM who has provided a financial update</p> <p>We have £11k current account, and £220k in the deposit, which is £12K less than at the beginning of April. Out of the deposit account we paid for the Church boiler £9K, and moved some money into the parish current account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to JMcG for all the new developments at the Parish Centre which we will be able to finance. • We were able to claim back the VAT on the Church boiler. • 40A Coniscliffe Road, this is being retained as commercial use, but now perhaps it is the wrong time as the general trend is for changing commercial use back to residential. BM to contact M Frazer at the Diocese to enquire about the change of use. To go ahead with the internal decoration (£2K) but delay the carpeting as we might need a different type of flooring. <p>GC said his son had shown an interest, but he has now found another property.</p>
5	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr G - Hope to have First Communion preparation starting 16th September in church mainly plus the house with 4 groups. Yr. 5 starting in September and Yr. 4 after Christmas. • Would like to have baptism preparation in October in church again unless we get the permission to use the Parish Centre as it is a parish event. • Updated Fr G on how we had in the past put to the Diocese the possibility of a Facilities Manager who would oversee the Club/Bar and manage the bookings. Suggested we should revisit this, especially in the light of the work that has been

	<p>needed to re-open. JmcG said other Clubs in the Diocese seemed to be open, but not sure if they have their own premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live streaming hoped that we would be operational by now but the man installing it had a family crisis and then needed in school. We might need to go down the route of installing the more expensive version £4K and paying a maintenance fee of £200 per month. We had been quoted £2K with no maintenance contract and assured if there was any problem he would come and fix and just charge us for that work. People seem to be fairly happy with the way things are. Thanks to the young person (12 yr. old) who stepped in, unfortunately the camera stand broke that day but still did a good job. Does the console need to be on that side? If the music group come back, there could be a space issue. Fr G would also like to be able to display the Eucharistic prayers as well as the music. <p>Two questions were submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the Parish Council minutes could be displayed on the website? • Do we need to have voting for new members of the Parish Council? <p>The Parish Council was set up to have representation from all groups. Maybe we need to look at this and get new members. JMcG also said this could happen over in the Parish Centre/Club and have two distinct committees.</p> <p>Thanks were given from Fr G for everything we do, and to JMcG and BM, along with the Stewards.</p>
6	<p>Meeting ended at 7.00pm Next meeting date TBA</p>