

**ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present

Fr. Kevin Douglas (President), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chair), Liz Brown (Secretary), Francis Katamba, Ros Macaskill, Salvatore Callea, Ann Royan.

In attendance

Jim Meehan, John Wastle, Mary Wastle, Shelagh McGhee, Sophie Bennett.

Welcome

All present were welcomed by Josephine Beech-Brandt, with a special mention for Jim Meehan from St. Columba's.

Apologies

Joyce Cullen, Patricia Cairns, Jo Mulvagh, Aga Allan.

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Kevin

Minutes of PPC Meeting 10 June 2019 -approved.

Matters arising

- **Finance Council** – Fr. Kevin has identified candidates and will set up in line with Archdiocesan guidelines (still in draft). It was felt that time was of the essence given capital projects pending, and possible deficit between parish income and parish running costs. **Action: Fr. Kevin.**
- **Annual Report 2018/19** – Document is now complete, and already available on the Parish Website. For reasons of cost and paper waste, it has been decided not to have it printed professionally this year. Instead a small number of copies will be available at the back of the church, and this will be explained via the newsletter. In future, it will become a bi-annual report. **Action: Liz Brown**
- **Working Together with St. Columba's**
 - **Joint Social Committee** – see Any Other Business. It was noted that there had been very positive discussions about St. Peter's relocating to St. Columba's during the replacement heating works.
 - **Observers** – Ros Macaskill had been St. Peter's representative at the meeting of St. Columba's PPC on Monday 16th September; Jim Meehan is first observer from St. Columba's.

Church Heating Project

John Wastle reported that the project to replace the church heating was on hold for the moment. Tender prices received at the beginning of September had greatly exceeded the planned budget of £100,000. There is scope to work with contractors to bring the costs back towards the budget and detailed negotiation will now start with them and our advisors, Blackwood Partnership. Quotes for the corrective work to remove asbestos from the basement have also been received, and these too, are much higher than could have been expected. Even with negotiation of the costs downwards, there is now some concern about the financial reserves that are available in the parish to fund total project and other ongoing but necessary work. There are funds for the asbestos removal, which will now take priority.

Parishioners will continue to be advised through the newsletter, and by announcements from Fr. Kevin.

Shelagh McGhee suggested that there might now be an opportunity to consider a more progressive type of heating system that did not use fossil fuel: details of a possible supplier were given, and advice will be sought from Blackwood Partnership.

A wider discussion took place about funding for the heating project. This will have the attention of the Finance Council (see Matters Arising above), and could include fundraising, by appeal and by grant. Also raised was the possibility of redress against the firm that had certificated in 2011 that St. Peter's was asbestos free. It was felt that there was insufficient paperwork to warrant this avenue of enquiry.

Parish Mission

Cognisant of pressure of Parish finances at present, Fr. Kevin will keep this idea under review.

Parish Safeguarding

St. Peter's was represented by Joyce Cullen at a recent Archdiocesan training session for Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators (PSCs). At this, it had been mentioned that the PSC role had expanded in the last few years from vetting of volunteers who have interaction with children and vulnerable adults as part of their ministry, handling reports of incidents, to include a wider brief of physical safety of buildings, GDPR etc. Given the variety of issues involved now, there is a case for splitting the PSC role at St. Peter's in line with this, and as happens in other parishes. Discussions are underway, and this matter will be considered further at next PPC. **Action: Liz Brown/Joyce Cullen**

Parish Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

The Parish Mission Statement had been circulated, see attached. It was agreed that a further review of the Strategic Plan would take place at next PPC. **Action: Liz Brown/Patricia Cairns**

Volunteering Sunday

It was felt that this had been a positive event, worth repeating next year. Feedback from Eco-Congregation was very positive; they recruited 4 new volunteers.

Any other business

Jim Meehan confirmed the booking of St. Columba's Hall for the Joint Alternativity Lunch, which is much anticipated. Since this is for Saturday 30th November, there was concern about altering the date for the Joint Parish Ceilidh, usually a Friday closest to St. Andrew's Day. Given all considerations, it was decided that this has become an established and popular event and should continue. This will also be on Saturday 30th November (rather than Friday to ease pressure on hall bookings).

Date of next meeting Monday 4th November at 7.30pm

Closing Prayer led by Fr. Kevin

