**St Aidan’s Parish Pastoral Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held 11th September 2017 in the Presbytery.**

**1. Present**: John Hannacher (JH, Chair), Fr Ken (KP), Sue Finch (SF), Brian Gallagher (BG), Vivianne Gattoc (VG) Louise Moss (LM), Vince Smith (VS), Virginia Wedgwood (VW).

**Apologies**: Deirdre Lay (DL), Anne Parsons (AP).

**2. Prayer and welcome**: JH welcomed all and the meeting commenced with a prayer from Fr. Ken.

JH welcomed VG to the meeting, replacing Shirley Abarca representing the Filipino community, and thanked Clare Reed, Bernie Hassim and John Crowshaw for their time on the committee in the past.

**3. Minutes**: Minutes of the last meeting 5th June 2017 were approved.

**4. Ministry reports and discussion as necessary**:

**4.1 Finance**. Report from SF:

The finance committee has not met since the last PPC meeting so there is little to report.

1. The parish currently has £68,525 in the account, and with no major expenditure currently planned there is no present concern about finances.

2. Tim Redding has written from the Finance Office to inform us that we will be audited in the coming months. We are waiting to be contacted by the auditor for a date.

3. Steve Gill has moved from the parish and so has resigned from the finance committee. The committee would like to thank Steve for all his work over the years regarding finance and in particular Gift Aid. Fr Ken has asked John Walden to join the committee but we do need someone to take over the Gift Aid role.

A letter should be sent to Steve from the council to formally thank him – action JH.

4. Future expenditure.

i. It was suggested that the Hall is in need of redecoration.

ii. There are ongoing problems with the drains, caused by the roots of the trees next door. A letter to the agents managing the sale has had no reply – the next step would be to ask Aidan Lynch for advice/help.

**4.2 Liturgy.** Report from VS.

VS shared the minutes from the most recent Liturgy group meeting on 6th September, and reported that the group need a larger committee and are recruiting for new members.

**4.3 Formation.** Report from BG

1. The latest Baptism Preparation course will start on 1st October. Suzette Harris has kindly agreed to take over from John Crowshaw. SF will continue to assist.

2. Sign-up for First Holy Communion 2018 is underway – the format of the preparation will remain the same as last year.

3. BG is happy to run a confirmation programme in 2018 if there is the demand. Notices in the newsletters have asked for expressions of interest but so far none have come forward. LM to continue notices until a deadline of the end of October (half term).

Following the success of last year, BG would like to run a joint programme with the other parishes in the pastoral area again, but would prefer to change the format and make it less formal and more relaxed.

**4.4 Social and Cultural.**

1. Retirement lunch of John Crowshaw. This was a huge success and the parish council would like to thank DL for all her work masterminding the day.

2. May Fayre. After many years coordinating the May Fayre, DL has decided to step down. A notice should go in the newsletter asking for a new team – action LM.

If no one comes forward we need to think about another form of fundraising. Perhaps a less labour intensive social function with an attached grand draw?

*(Amendment following PPC meeting on 4th December 2017: May Fayre is not viable because there are not enough volunteers. Erecting and dismantling the marquees is hard work, and in addition to this there were not enough volunteers to run the stalls on the day. Many had signed up in advance to say they would help, but this did not materialise. DL stated it is not that she is standing down, but that whoever it is that coordinates does not currently have the support necessary.)*

**4.5 Maintenance.** Report from VW.

1. Window and gutter cleaning – this was carried out at the end of June by WCS.

2. Acoustics – This issue is still outstanding. Ann Masat unfortunately cannot spare the time to be involved in this issue. Previous investigations suggested that painting the roof tiles would improve the acoustics. VW has found a decorator who has experience of church decorating, and a meeting has been arranged for 14th September – Gerard Anderson will also attend this meeting.

3. With the departure of Steve Gill the maintenance team is much diminished. LM has taken over some of the responsibilities but another person is needed to give some practical help.

4. Fr Ken has arranged for a painter to paint the timber garage doors.

5. Sweeping of the leaves – last year this was done on a Saturday morning by the gardeners – DL to check what is planned for this year.

6. Fr Ken is worried the heating in the church is erratic – this is probably due to the ‘minimum threshold’ used to prevent the condensation issues.

**4.7 Ecumenical.**

This ministry needs a replacement for Clare Reed.

**4.8 Youth.**

This ministry needs a replacement for Bernie Hassim.

1. COMPASS is unlikely to re-start due to a lack of leaders.

2. YOUTH Mass is not well supported currently. Adult readers will be available via the rota on Youth Mass Saturdays so Sarah doesn’t have to worry about volunteers from the youth.

**4.9 Pastoral Area Council.** Report from KP.

The next meeting is Tuesday 19th September.

The 2 Deacons at Great Missenden are happy support Fr Ken here at St Aidan’s.

Peter Kirk is now a member of the PAC – he should be invited to attend PPC meetings. Action KP.

**5. AOB**

**i. Projector in the Hall**.

VS is continuing to research the best option for this. The newest technology uses lasers, but it was felt that the extra expense would probably not be justified, and lamp technology would be the best fit for our needs.

**ii. Filipino choir**.

Fr Ken requested that the Filipino choir sang more regularly at Mass. Action VG to speak to the Filipino singers.

**iii. Finch Lane**.

1. Little Chalfont Parish Council (LCPC) have written to the residents of Finch Lane asking for suggestions of what to do with the land around the pond. Action - JH to reply on behalf of Fr Ken and the PPC.

2. St Aidan’s are considering a new entrance to the church car park, opposite the pub car park, to allow a one-way system. This would involve using land owned by LCPC. Any planning application would need to go through the diocese.

JH has spoken to the parish clerk – the project around the pond should not affect this land.

It was agreed that financially the acoustic issue needs to take priority, and funds should be used for that before we take this forward.

**iv. Volunteer recruitment**.

A regular theme through the ministry reports was that new volunteers are required.

The existing volunteers are disproportionally older – the 30 – 50yr old group are missing.

It was decided to do a recruitment drive via the newsletter – “your parish needs you”. Action LM.

**v. Vice Chair.**

A vice chair is needed for the PPC, to chair meetings in the absence of JH.

VS volunteered for this role.

**6. Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 4th December at 7.30pm

**7. Prayer and Close**

Fr Ken closed the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Moss

2nd October 2017