

.MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JUNE 2004

PRESENT:

Father Michael	Chairperson	Bridie O'Brien	Senior Citizen Rep
Clare Chiles	Minutes	Seamus O'Connor	SVP
Ben Doherty	Altar Servers	Paul Relf	Sacristy
David Doherty	Reader	Liz Relf	Finance
Arthur Jones	Catechists	Sheila Smith	Council of Churches
Malachy Houlihan	Maintenance		

The meeting began at 7.05 pm with a prayer.

APOLOGIES:

Karolina Ashton, Gabriella Browne, Paula Browne, Jennifer Burridge, Michael Burridge, Nehemiah Condono, Susan Doherty, Hannah Dunne, Frances Graham, Philippa Gray, Tim Hannifin, Joy McCready, Norena McCready, Jackie Murray and Irene O'Brien.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

Foundry Road has been sold and it is hoped that the Parish will get a percentage of the sale. The outline of the script for the panto Aladdin is on the computer and will be completed over the Summer.

Worship/Spirituality

The Over 50s club is running a trip to Bath on Wednesday 7th July . There are some seats available to non members at a cost of £10.00.

Choir members are always needed but there is a pressing need for more musicians especially at the 6.30 Mass and there is no relief organist for the 10.30 Mass. Daniel Jeffreys, one of our youth is practising the organ and is "coming along nicely".

More linen purificators are needed as the polyester ones do not wipe the vessels successfully. More altar frontals are also needed.

The Parish financial accounts all balance and have been returned to the Diocesan Finance Office.

The Prayer group is going well with between 4 to 7 members each week, and is now meeting back in Morrilton.

Helen Dunne has taken over the provision of flowers and was superbly assisted by Sue Docherty over the Easter period. There was a lot of praise for the Easter flowers especially the arrangements around the Paschal candle and the newly blessed water.

The members of the Bereavement group are meeting on a monthly basis at the Presbytery and it is hoped that the end of their training will be in time for the Service of Remembrance in November

Education

Confirmation: There is an excellent group of 12 candidates, also having supportive parents this year. The Confirmation Mass is on 27th June and this year has been a brilliant and very successful experience with the 12 candidates. £493.14 has been raised through fasting and a

sponsored walk including £55.00 raised at the 'Soup for Sudan Supper' held on Holy Thursday. There is a desperate need for more catechists as it is uncertain whether Belinda and Roger can continue owing to family commitments. A notice has been placed in the bulletin asking for catechists for Confirmation and First Communion and once this has been displayed, possible catechists can be approached directly. Arthur Jones would be willing to stand down as team coordinator but Fr. M. stated that it was a team effort.

There are 3 children making their First Communion and they have chosen to do this at the 10.30 am Mass on 27th June. The children and their families are all regular attendees at Mass and this made a big difference in the lessons as they were all very bright and knowledgeable.

Social Concerns

The Morriston Council of Churches "limps along" and Sheila continues to attend the meetings as representative of the Catholic Church and takes the minutes. The Walk of Witness had the best turnout for many years and police supervision was provided by unpaid Christian policemen. Prayer meetings are held monthly on a Saturday morning. The M.C.C has requested that the Harvest Festival Service be held at the Sacred Heart Church later this year. The date is yet to be decided.

The SVP is making about 8 or 9 visits a week to homes or hospital and are regularly taking people to Mass. It was noted that the men are very active in doing people's gardens, taking them shopping and providing / moving furniture using the Clydach-based van which is for use by all the SVP groups in Swansea. Fr. M. thanked the 'background boys for all their hard work and expressed his gratitude to them for the work that they do around the Church.

After having been conned by a bogus family, it was suggested that in future only food or clothes be given to families and Fr. M. suggested that should money be given then a receipt be requested. The small change collection after Mass is proving very lucrative.

It was suggested that an emergency store cupboard could be started, i.e. Pasta, tins, etc. Parishioners could be asked to donate items but dates of expiry must be checked carefully.

The SVP has sent money to Sudan for the past 2 years to provide motorbikes for the catechists to travel around their territory! This is the last year for this scheme.

SACRED HEART CENTRE

The contract cleaner has finished at the Centre and from 21st June, Mary Houlihan will be solely responsible for cleaning the inside of the Centre whilst Seamus will be responsible for outdoor maintenance. A floor buffer has been purchased and this will be kept in the locked boiler room.

The Diocesan Trustees have given the go ahead for the removal of the asbestos, and building work should start in September to upgrade the kitchen and toilets. The asbestos should be removed in August and the Hall will not be available for use during this time until the contractors have cleaned up all the dust particles. Paul is submitting an application for a grant in mid July and work cannot be started until the outcome for this application is known. If successful, it is hoped that we will receive the full amount of £35,000 to cover the cost of upgrading.

When all work is completed, the cost of hiring the hall will increase to cover the extra costs, for example those now paying £10.00 will be charged £12.00. The Hall needs to be used during the day to generate a regular income and it is hoped that the Council will use it for Further Education classes. It is hoped that volunteers from the Parish will work in pairs and act as doorkeepers to prevent undesirables from entering the hall during use. A portable TV would be provided by Fr. M.

A new steel ladder has been purchased and it was suggested that the mesh screens could be painted at the Centre. For the sake of safety, two people would be needed. The plans for the intended upgrade will be put on display at the back of Church and in the centre itself.

PARISH SUMMER TRIPS

Over 50s trip to Bath on July 7th and it is hoped to run a trip to Caldey Island or Aberystwyth during August.

FUTURE EVENTS

Parish Bazaar at the end of November.

Possible table top (similar to car boot) sales at the Hall on Saturday afternoons. Malachy has offered to manage this fund raising venture.

A.O.B.

Sharon Davies is hoping to start a crèche for the very young children in the back room of the Church in 3 /4 weeks time.

This year's Parish Project is to help Chris Evans in Nepal, where he lives in a small remote village, and uses his agricultural knowledge to help the local inhabitants to become not only self-sufficient, but also to produce income for their village. He is prepared to give a slide show, which will probably be on the 13 July. It was suggested that there might be a fundraiser (e.g. cheese and wine) on that night.

The crisis in Sudan is getting worse, and CAFOD have now asked for financial help. The Second Collection on the 27 June will be for this cause.

David Doherty ran the London Marathon and raised £385.00 for Father Sebastian.

DATNM

Thursday, 21st October 2004, at 7.00 pm.

Father Michael thanked all who had attended, and the meeting ended at 8.24 pm with a prayer.