

St Werburgh's Parish Council – Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Present: Fr Paul, Marie Broadhurst, Barbara Graves, Denise Jones, Syd Jones (Parish Secretary), Bernice Meredith, Caroline Palmer, Gerry Tighe, Paula Wszolek

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2018 were reviewed and approved

Parish Council Resignation

Father Paul reported that due to other work commitments Tobi had found it necessary to resign from the Parish Council.

Parish Council recorded its appreciation for the work and support Tobi had given as Parish Councillor.

Children's Liturgy

Caroline reminded Parish Council that Children's Liturgy was structured around two age groups, with the younger group lower age limit being generally considered as four years of age. She shared two concerns regarding the younger group. First, that some of the children were not adequately supervised by their parents and could on occasions be disruptive and prevent the group from participating in the activities prepared to explain the liturgy of the day. Also, that there were, increasingly, very young children joining in who were far too young to understand and participate in the group, also with some potential for disruption.

Parish Council agreed that:

1. The lower age limit for joining children's liturgy should be 4 years of age
2. Parents would be reminded by Father Paul it is their responsibility to ensure their children are not disruptive
3. If there is enough interest in a Group for under fours, provided adequate volunteers come forward this would be considered.

Safeguarding

Father Paul updated generally on safeguarding issues and reminded Parish Council of the importance of the process.

He reviewed the process and timetable.

Syd was being cleared under the Diocesan DBS procedure, he explained in practice what was involved and some of the key points he had identified

Choir

Father Paul gave a general review of progress by the Choir

Great War Memorial Plaque

Father Paul reported on progress on the memorial plaque, including the feedback from the Parish on the proposed content and layout.

Tenders had been invited from several companies and a summary of the tenders received was circulated. These had been considered by the Plaque Planning Group who were recommending the acceptance of the lowest quotation, from Photocast Products who would produce the memorial in bronze. A sample of the materials was displayed.

Father Paul also reported that consideration was being given to a wooden frame for the plaque and also appropriate lighting.

Great War Memorial Plaque and Piano: Financial Implications

Father Paul reported on the financial implications of both matters. He explained that current thinking was that the Memorial Plaque would primarily be funded from a generous legacy of (anticipated) £6,000 which was expected soon and that the piano, to a maximum of £8,000, would be funded from our Our Mission Together allocation held by the Diocese. The Diocese had given an informal indication that they would support the purchase of the piano from the OMT fund.

Minor Works

Father Paul updated on the minor works programme funded by the sum released by the Diocese from our OMT funds.

He mentioned in particular the intention to purchase at least some of the new altar cloths in time for the Great War Memorial Dedication Service in November.

Father Paul reminded Parish Council that with the new altar cloths it was intended to remove the candles from the altar and instead have new free-standing altar candles. Gerry circulated information from Hayes and Finch indicating suitable candles that would match existing silverware. The cost would be in the region of £2,000 - £2,500 depending on which were chosen.

Father Paul suggested that a sample be obtained and displayed in church for parishioners to express views.

External Building Works

Father Paul reported that further work on the roof and gutter repairs was due to start in the coming week and that contracts had also been awarded for the external decoration works.

Eucharistic Ministers Review Sessions

Father Paul reported on progress on the review sessions. Father Paul reflected on whether some of the Ministers had lost enthusiasm and keenness and whether there was a case for time limiting appointments to the Ministry.

Joseph Barnes – Work Placement

Father Paul reported that Joseph's work placement was coming to an end and his views on the placement.

Benemerenti Medal

Father Paul reported that Pauline would be presented with her medal at the 9.00 am Mass on Sunday June 3rd.

Heritage Festival

Gerry reported on the arrangements for the Heritage Festival and particularly the two talks to be given at St Werburgh's.

GDPR Training

Father Paul reported that he was attending a Diocesan training day on GDPR this coming Friday and would report further.

Heritage Walk: Canal

Each year Geoff Taylor hosted a canal tour for the CathSoc Students and it was reported that he had offered to organise a similar walk for the parish in general.

Next Meeting

Father Paul said the next meeting of the Parish Council was the parish council social. He said he wanted to take the Parish Council, across to Liverpool by train to one of his favourite restaurants and followed by a short walk around the city.