

All Saints Inaugural Parish Council Meeting

Minutes

Date of Meeting : 6th January 2020

Meeting Venue :
Benedict Room
St. Catherine's and All Saints
Church

Meeting Hosted by: Fr. Abbs

Meeting Attendees:

Fr. Gordon
Deacon Derek
Martyn Griffiths
Elizabeth Casey
Peter Coon
Angela Holmes
Gill Hamilton
Pat Dodson
Linda Morris
Elizabeth Casey

Apologies:

A.Charnock

Item		Actions
1.0	Fr. Gordon opened the meeting with prayers	
2.0	Because not everyone knew everyone else in the room each member introduced themselves.	
3.0	Fr. Gordon asked for a volunteer to take the minutes for this and future meetings - Elizabeth Casey volunteered	
4.0	Fr. Gordon asked for volunteers for a Chairperson - after discussion it was agreed that Fr. Gordon would be the Chairperson for the initial meetings.	
5.0	Whilst we have 8 members of the Parish Council, Fr. Gordon would still like another 4 additional people so that the Council has 12 members, plus Fr. Gordon and Deacon Derek.	
5.1	A discussion took place as to the best way to recruit an additional 4 people. Ideally Fr. Gordon would like Parish councillors to invite parishioners to be members having identified their skills. Let's see what the next few weeks brings.	
6.0	Fr. Gordon, explained that the Archbishop wanted each Parish to have a Parish Council and how this will work within Canon Law: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no directive under Canon Law, having a Parish Council is optional, but a Finance Council is mandatory. Fr. Gordon would like to combine the two.• It is important that the Parish Clergy listen to the Council in order to get things done.	

- Fr. Gordon explained that whilst the Parish Council is made up of lay people from St. Lewis' and St. Catherine's & All Saints they are 2 distinctive Parishes. All finances must be kept separate as the money belongs to the parishioners of each church.
- A discussion took place about whether the weekly offertory collections amounts should be published in the newsletter. There is a security issue regarding money kept on the Churches premises. Also, there is a difficulty in calculating the exact weekly figure because of direct debits and gift aid, so any figure given would only be a very rough approximation.

7.0 Fr. Gordon asked for people's initial thoughts regarding what the Parish Council should address.

- Cemetery fundraising.
- Parking at the front of All Saints.
- The house at St. Lewis being vacant
- Further discussions to take place as the Council continues to meet.

8.0 Fr. Gordon gave the Council an update on what we need to know.

Building and Maintenance

St. Lewis' - Issue with damp.

- *Damp remedial work to be done to address the continued problems at no extra cost as the work is under guarantee.*

9.0 All Saints Social Centre - Issue with the roof.

- *A replacement roof has been completed at a cost of £64,000 with a 20 year guarantee. (There was an option to patch up the roof but wouldn't have carried any guarantee.) Some redecoration is now required: ceiling tiles, painting of walls, refurbishment of the disabled toilet.*

St. Lewis Electrics

- *This in hand and will be done at the end of January: a light under the meeting room stairs and repair of one of the outside lights.*

All Saints Electrics, Grotto, Graveyard/Ground Maintenance.

- *There are various electric jobs that are in hand - the main one being the outside lights which only come on if someone walks by them (and sometimes not).*
- *Steps by the Presbytery are in hand and will be completed in January.*
- *Our Ladies Grotto is unsafe and will be taken down and in the spring will be rebuilt facing the graveyard.*
- *All Saints Cemetery/Grounds will be maintained by Midstream (a charity from Skelmersdale, which employs people with learning difficulties). Midstream have been used in the past on an ad hoc basis, but have now been booked to come once every 3 weeks.*
- *The tarmac on the cemetery paths needs to be addressed.*

Safeguarding

- *Due to the ever increasing Safeguarding workload, Fr. Gordon has asked for additional support for the Safeguarding Officers at each parish:*

All Saints -Safeguarding - Linda Morris - will be supported by Elizabeth Casey.

St. Lewis' -Safeguarding - Anne Evans will be supported by Stephen Walton.

- *In addition to DBS checks on volunteers working with Children and Vulnerable Adults, the Archdiocese now require 2 references for all volunteers regardless of their role and a 'job' description for each role is required. This additional work: 70+ volunteers for St Catherine & All Saints and 30+ volunteers for St Lewis will begin once the Diocese has approved our two new Safeguarding Reps.*

Clerical Holiday Cover

- *Fr. Gordon will cover for Fr. Kieran from Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's in Leigh and vice-versa for weekday mass and Requiems as holiday relief.*

Finances

- *A Payment was received from the sale of St. Catherine's: £1,040,000. The net amount will be less demolition costs and the costs of the reallocation of Ashes.*
- *Money received from the sale of property does not go directly into the parish account: this is kept at Head Office as an investment and St. Catherine's & All Saints receive the yearly dividends. This money is deemed as capital and can only be used on new building work only, not on maintenance.*
- *Both St. Lewis' and St. Catherine's & All Saints are solvent.*

Website

- *St. Lewis' currently have a website*
- *A website for St. Catherine's & All Saints is being created and will be up and running (but not completed) hopefully before the end of January 2020.*
- *Newsletters, Parish Council minutes, SVP information will be posted to both websites.*

SVP

- *St. Lewis' have recently set up an SVP Conference, 12 people have shown an interest however, each person will require a DRB check.*
- *On Sunday 5th January 2020 a coffee morning was held at St. Lewis' which raised £201.00.*
- *Fr. Gordon would like St. Catherine's & All Saints to have a separate SVP - All Saints School already have what are known as Mini-Vinnie's - These are children who support the SVP through fundraising making hampers etc... We will look at this once St Lewis SVP has bedded itself in.*

Ecumenical

- *Fr. Gordon meets with other Ministers from Golborne and Lowton, he will be looking to find a lay person to also attend the meetings for both Ecumenical groupings.*

Parish Office

- *Fr. Gordon is still looking for volunteers to assist in the office.*

Printers

- *We have bought a new printer for the office as the last one was over 15 years old and kept breaking down.*

Fundraising

- *A discussion took place relating to having a fund to help with the maintenance of the graveyard and grounds at All Saints. Fr. Gordon suggested a Lottery Bonus Ball draw. This will require a Local Authority licence.*
- *A social gathering is being organised for March in All Saints Social centre the profits of which will go to support the work on the cemetery and the grounds.*
- *He asked the Council to think of other ways of fundraising.*

Bethlehem Seminaries

- *We've had received a thank you from Bethlehem Seminaries saying they are grateful for the Christmas cards.*
- *A discussion took place regarding whether we could further our links with them by inviting the Seminarians to visit both parishes when they visit Liverpool next July. Need to check with Anna Charnock.*

Mass Times at St. Lewis'

- *There was the suggestion that we could move Sunday mass times: St Lewis from 8.30am to 9.00am and All Saints from 10.00am to 10.30am.*
- *Some parishioners have said that the 8.30 Mass is too early, if we want to encourage families with children to come to mass. Additionally, older parishioners need more time to get ready for mass.*
- *Moving Mass times will have a knock effect for Eucharistic Ministers who take communion out to people especially at Lime House which will have to be addressed.*
- *Parish Councillors were asked to think about this and the matter will be reviewed at the next meeting.*

Any Other Business

- *Martyn said there is a freestanding statue at St. Lewis' which is in a bad state. Fr. Gordon asked Martyn to speak to a company called Carreras: they will advise what can/needs to be done and give a cost.*

- Fr. Gordon mentioned that the outside notice board at St. Lewis' also needs to be looked at and possibly renewed and relocated. He asked Peter Coon to contact a local builder to see if this can be done and what the cost will be.
- Peter also mentioned that the list of past Parish Priests at St. Lewis' is missing - Fr. Gordon suggested that a new one is needed. Stephen Walton to sort out.
- Deacon Derek closed the meeting with prayers.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2020
BENEDICT ROOM - ST. CATHERINE'S & ALL SAINTS**