

PPC MINUTES OF THE MEETING

25th January 2024

Parish Hall

OPENING PRAYER

The chairman opened the meeting with a prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance. He welcomed Eamonn, the Chair of the Finance and Building Committee who will be an ex-officio member.

APOLOGIES: Fr Tom, John McManus.

PRESENT: Joe Mc, Elizabeth B, Claire D, Lydia F, Joe R, Philip S, Helma B, Eamonn B (ex-officio).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were approved and signed as a record of the last meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

The following arrangements were made for the Scottish Evening.

Elizabeth will source the haggis and purchase one vegetarian haggis if numbers suffice. Joe's friend to address the Haggis if available on the 10th February. Elizabeth will say the Selkirk Grace. Dennis Ruttledge will be the MC.

Joe Mc will provide the neeps and whisky, His wife will make favours for each table, probably 10. He will also bring a gluten free nut roast for Helma.

Joe R will provide hot dogs for the children and apple crumble as the cranachan contains whisky. Elizabeth will source the ingredients for this pudding. Joe will also bring plastic tot glasses, napkins and raffle prizes. He will do the quiz questions.

Philip will bring a sack of potatoes. We will all meet at 2.30pm in the hall to cook the food, set up and prepare the tables.

Final numbers will be given by Joe R to those buying food.

Village contacts and events

Maps of the parish boundaries with a list of the 26 villages were distributed to members. There was a discussion about who could represent each village and what events were taking place in some of them. A list will be put in the porch asking parishioners to sign up to be a representative of their village with a note in the newsletter explaining this.

The short-term goal for this initiative is 6 months to contact everyone and long term about a year to meet everyone in the village pub or other suitable venue.

Fund raising events for 2024/25

February Scottish Evening

April Emmaus Walk

June Summer Fayre with Afternoon Tea

August or September Annual BBQ

October De(S)sert Island Discs

December Advent Fayre

2025 March Irish Night

Joe R and Philip are interested in starting a 200 Club - £10 per person.

Joe R will sort out the legal requirements.

LENT TALKS

Helma has arranged that Derek Williams, an international Catholic Evangelist will be the speaker for talks on February 26th, March 4th and 11th. Pope Francis has asked for prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025 so the theme of the talks will be Prayer.

Content of new Website

At the next meeting of the F&B committee on 10th February which Joe will attend, there will be a discussion on finding an agency to set up a new website. It is important to know what content the parish requires on a website. A working party of Eamonn, Joe and Helma will try to move this project forward.

Magda has stated that she is not doing a webmaster course but a bookkeeping course. There will need to be an appointment of a webmaster to keep the website up to date.

Parish Groups

These are the groups already set up.

Saint Vincent de Paul Conference:

Rosary Group

Proclaim Group

Guild of St Stephen Altar Servers group.

Flower Arrangers

Church Cleaners

Listening Group

SACRAMENTS – First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Claire reported that the numbers in the class have fallen from 18 to 16 as one mother wished to do the course at home by herself, as this is not a viable option she has removed her children from the class.

REPORTS from SVP: H&S and Safeguarding. See attached.

Any Other Business A vote of thanks was given to Joe Robinson and Matthew Larn for filling in the potholes in the car park with gravel which they purchased and pruning bushes and tidying up the garden.

A discussion began about the uncertainty of events taking place following Fr Tom's departure. Claire is concerned about which priest will come for First Confessions on March 3rd : Confirmation is booked for 16th July but no lessons have begun though there are a number of candidates.

Joe Mc to contact Bishop Peter if he can give us a date of his announcement to the Parish.

Eamonn said that at the next meeting of the F&B committee on 10th February a budget for the next year will be set.

At the next meeting on February 15th at 6.30pm, matters will be discussed from the Agenda for the Open Meeting on Sunday 17th March.

Joe thanked everyone for attending and said the closing prayer.

Next Meeting – Thursday 15th February 6.30pm in the hall.