

MINUTES of the meeting of Scarborough Catholic Parishes Pastoral Council held on Tuesday 6 June 2017.

Present: Fr Eddie Gubbins (Fr EG), Chairman in the Chair, and Mary Blurton (MB), Hugh Davey (HD), Olympio D'Souza (OD'S), Paul Inasu (PI), Josie Krlc (JK), Kevin O'Connor (KO'C) and Anne Smith (AS). Also present at the invitation of the Chair – David Munslow (DM)

1. **Opening prayer:** Canon Gubbins lead the opening prayer and welcomed Members to the meeting and asked whether there were any other items of business to be considered. He would speak about St Peter's old school and HD wished to include fundraising. Both matters to be included under Any Other Business.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Fr Albert Schembri (Fr AS) and Liz White (LW). No other apologies had been received.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February** were circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as a correct record. No matters arising were raised but Fr EG commented on the good work being done by the various parish groups.
4. **Financial report** – Fr EG confirmed that a financial report had been prepared by LW but he had mislaid it. He reported that the finances were healthy and it was agreed that the report would be circulated to Members by AS once it was located. PI commented on the inclusion of the breakdown of the weekly collection on the newsletter and wondered whether this encouraged more generous donations. HD pointed out that the attendance figures were also included and that it was important to consider this too. Fr EG commented that some weeks could be skewed if a parishioner was away and then made up the difference on return. He also mentioned some parishes did not publicize collections as this could be a security issue, preferring to make the figures available on the church notice boards. DM and PI felt it was important that parishioners' contribution to the parish was acknowledged
5. **Property update:** a comprehensive report provided by DM had been circulated prior to the meeting and he explained the work which had been carried out and was still required at St Peter's. This includes work on the high level windows and loose plaster in the clerestory; widening the entrance to the car park and repairs to the damaged safety railing; safety issues with access to the crypt; tests to lightning conductors; safety concerns with the organ wiring; restoration and cleaning of the sanctuary; and the old school premises on Aurborough Street. Grab handles had been fitted at St Edwards main entrance to aid access, and the proposals for a Parish Hall at St Joseph's were being revisited to provide a more workable scheme. St Peter's Church - DM advised that works requiring scaffolding would be programmed at the same time once all necessary permissions had been obtained. The property is Grade 2 listed and Historic Churches Commission (HCC), Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) and the Curial Offices Property Department would all need to be consulted. The pillars at the entrance to the car park had been knocked over time and required attention, the proposal is to widen the access by removing 60cm of the wall abutting the church and repositioning the pedestrian access gate and pillar. Quotes had been requested and were awaited before

permissions could be sought. Recent electrical works in the organ loft had raised concerns about the concealed wiring, some issues had been addressed but professional advice from specialists was required. Geoffrey Coffin of York was to be contacted to undertake a survey. This would be an expensive project but the organ had been known to be in disrepair for some considerable time. One possibility would be to remove the inner workings of the organ and replace them with an electronic organ and powerful speakers at a cost of between £25k and £50k. The original pipes and casing would be retained so that the external appearance would be kept. The estimated price of full restoration would be circa £200k. Sanctuary decorations – there had been problems for several years and the suggestion was that the upper decoration should be professionally cleaned and the right hand side window decoration should be restored to match the left hand side. This work would involve scaffolding to allow access and take upwards of two to four weeks. At the lower level the flaking paint should be removed and this area should be repainted in the same colour, i.e. magnolia. Permissions may not be required for these proposed works as they are maintaining the same standard of decorations. DM stressed that a dilapidation schedule must be prepared before any work started to ensure that no further damage was done by contractors etc to the delicate fabric of the building. OD'S suggested a plan of works should be prepared which could be tied into fundraising and would give targets for the phases of the works required. Fr EG agreed that the lower level should be repainted but the higher level should be restored to its former glory, especially around the high level window which is temporarily painted red. A parishioner had suggested that there may be funding available from SBC for the restoration and HD thought grants may be available from English Heritage. DM mentioned someone in York who could provide a list of funding sources and would charge approx 1-2% of subsequent funds raised.

Old school premises – Fr EG informed Members that he had discovered that the premises had not been insured since 2012. The situation had been rectified and they will be insured in future by the Diocese. DM confirmed that the property was held by SBC under a 25 year Lease which had been in place for 17 years. When the new school was built on North Leas Avenue, government grants were provided towards the costs of building and it was a requirement that the old school be retained probably as surety for the grants. Fr EG has contacted the Curial Office Property Department to obtain a copy of the government Contract in order to establish the position with regard to repayment of the grants and the terms relating to the possible sale of the old school property, as the current occupiers, Scarborough Enterprise Agency (SEA), have indicated a wish to vacate the premises. HD enquired about the rent being paid for the premises and was advised that this was in the region of £11k per annum. SBC had requested an easement on the rent as a number of units in the premises were vacant and it had been agreed at the rent review that the annual rent increase would not be implemented for two years. Fr EG asked for Members views on what to do with the premises if SEA vacated the premises. The Lease to SBC would remain in place but if SBC could not let the premises they may wish to terminate the Lease but would have to give due notice. KO'C suggested that, depending on the financial implications established by checking the government contract, a Catholic Centre should be provided. DM commented that the site could be lucrative if we engaged a development agency, typically resulting in flats, car parking and a Parish centre. HD suggested including a nursing home but concerns were raised as existing nursing homes are losing money and some are closing. JK

emphasized the need to check the contract before any decision was taken. Fr EG asked Members to bear the potential possibilities in mind.

St Joseph's Parish Hall – DM advised that he had checked the paper trail on the proposed Parish Hall and felt that there was currently no clear vision of what was required. St Edward's has a hall which is satisfactory but St Peter's Parish Centre and the provision at St Joseph's are both inadequate. It is accepted that St Peter's is the mother church for Scarborough and that a facility is needed to accommodate the combined parishes. Having considered the schemes produced to date he had concluded that St Joseph's do not need the very substantially sized Parish Hall which had been proposed. St Mark's are to undertake a big redevelopment and would welcome St Joseph's involvement and use of that facility. A financial contribution had been sought but it was not felt that this was appropriate. It was accepted that events which required a larger venue could be held in St Mark's newly extended premises in future. JK commented that there was enough underused space at St Joseph's which could be reconfigured to provide what was required. The situation had changed at St Joseph's since Fr AS had moved into the bungalow and groups were now using the room at the end of the bungalow for small meetings but the space was hardly big enough to comfortably accommodate the groups and this was restricting activities, especially for the Mums and Toddlers group. DM advised that he had looked at the available space and felt that a kitchenette, storage, toilets etc could be provided and this could accommodate 20-30 for a sit down meal, 30-40 for a meeting and a maximum of 80 for a standing buffet. He asked whether this was the sort of provision required, hopefully within a budget of circa £250k, as opposed to the previously suggested £420k for the much larger facility. The notional scheme would incorporate the Newman Room, the unused area behind the bungalow and would include the demolition of a garage. JK thought the proposal would be well used by the parish after Mass. OD'S realized that any works would depend on what happened with the old school but felt the need to move on at St Joseph's. HD felt a small hall was needed at St Joseph's. Fr EG confirmed that St Mark's Hall could be used for bigger gatherings. OD'S reminded Members that events had been held successfully at both St Peter's and St Augustine's schools in the past. DM agreed that a small community facility was required for social events. KO'C welcomed better facilities for the children's liturgy group. It was agreed that any facility would be well used by the various groups who already meet including the liturgy group, RCIA, Ascent, Craft group and Mums and Toddlers. Fr EG stressed that they were looking for a solution and that the situation with the old school would be kept under consideration. KO'C suggested that an extraordinary meeting should be arranged if an update was necessary for Members and this was agreed. Fr EG thanked DM for his attendance and the work he had already done in visits and emails to various agencies and for his support to the Parish. He also asked what response he should make to Jennifer at SEA. DM suggested that reply while he appreciates her approach, she should contact SBC. PI asked how long it would take to obtain the contract. As stated earlier, DM advised that the request had been made to the Diocese.

6. **Updates from sub-groups** – no updates had been received. Fr EG confirmed that First Holy Communion would take place at St Joseph's on 11 June and St Peter's on 18 June. JK confirmed that the refreshments at St Joseph's would be held in the bungalow, rather than the school as Fr AS felt it important to maintain the link with the church.

7. **Review of Lent and Easter and the May procession** – Members agreed that the Lenten Planner had been very useful and the May procession had been well attended. JK commented on the walk from St Peter's School to St Joseph's on Palm Sunday which had been very impressive.

8. **Corpus Christi procession** – Fr EG confirmed that this would take place on 18 June congregating at the Castle at 4pm and processing to St Peter's in time for the 5pm Mass. HD commented that the procession held in 2016 had started at St Mary's Church and Fr EG agreed to contact the Vicar for permission. He praised the school for the support given to these celebrations.

9. **Liturgy Group** – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. **Any Other Business** - St Peter's old school was discussed at length under Agenda Item 5.

HD gave a number of suggestions for future fundraising events which he had researched from old newsletters including a barbecue; American tea; Austrian evening. Fr EG advised that tickets were selling well for the forthcoming International Night which unfortunately clashes with another engagement for a number of the Indian families.

11. **Date and time of next meeting** – it was agreed that more frequent meetings should be held to deal with ongoing matters and the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 12 September at 7pm in St Peter's Parish Centre.