

MINUTES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2; 7PM VIA ZOOM

Present FR. MARTIN , PAUL KERRYSON(CHAIR), LIZ MURPHY (treasurer), BARBARA CRACK, SHARON NYASIRI, PAUL LEFF, FRANCESCA EDWARDS

Apologies, JUNE BIGGER, LOUISE HANDBURY, JUSTINLAWSON

1-Paul K welcomed everyone and we began with a short prayer.

2-Paul K asked for an update on the church and house roof. Fr Martin confirmed that the church was not safe to reopen. The diocese are considering the matter on September 4th – there are two quotes to fix the church and house roof. Both need to be done in tandem to ensure the safety of the whole site. Both quotes are approx. 100K. Everyone agreed that the work needs to be sanctioned and started ASAP. If a safe tunnel can be set up next to the scaffolding, weekend masses with social distancing could recommence while the work is being done.

3-Paul K asked Fr Martin for an update on the intruder alarm systems. This needs to be addressed following recent break ins. The basic cost would be approx. £3000 plus annual service, £450 plus £1000 per year to have police response. This is essential otherwise St Gregory's staff would need to be on 24 hour call.

4-There followed a discussion about the forthcoming annual elections to the council. Four members are due to stand down or put themselves up for re-election- Francesca, Liz, Sharon and Paul K . Paul K asked for thoughts on a proposal to delay the elections until next January to avoid instability due to the current situation and Fr Martin just starting with us. Fr Martin thought this was acceptable given the current situation of not being able to hold our usual public meeting in the hall when parishioners can fully participate in a secret ballot and questions for the nominees. If elections were held without sufficient communication with the parishioners and enough nominees or votes, we may not end up with the right people. Paul L suggested that we could still hold the elections in November if we could fully communicate nominations etc via the website etc. This would also be an opportunity to emphasize the roles, commitment etc of the sub groups. It may be good for Fr Martin to start with a new look council. It was agreed to see if this system of nominating and voting would be viable and work in a transparent way via the website. Action Annette to be approached to see if this could work efficiently.

5- Under AOB Barbara brought up the issues of the First Communion group and the impact of the church closure and communicating by zoom. The first communion for next year should be starting soon creating an overlap. This was difficult to resolve but to take things step by step and keeping parents and children informed, involved and keeping the process alive.

6-Under AOB Paul L gave an update on the governance of the school and plans to involve parishioners in various activities. A callout for more volunteers for issues of educational attainment, school finance and facilities and environment was needed in the newsletter together with thanks to

all who have volunteered so far. The links between church and school are good and boding well for the future. Fr Martin is due to visit the school this week.

7- Under AOB Father Martin gave us an update on the situation at Savio House. Fr Graham has re-joined the community, plus two brothers and three volunteers. We all agreed that we look forward to when the Salesian parish and community can be meeting face to face especially restarting our successful socially distanced and safe Masses at church. Fr Martin will be away in Scotland next week.

8- The meeting ended at 8.30pm PK will circulate proposed times for the next meeting.