

St Mary's Pastoral Parish Council

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 19th March 2013

Present:

Father William (Parish Priest)
Simon Knowles (Chairman)
Simon Stockdale (Liturgy A)
Jeff McGillan (Activities)
Cathy Binns (Support)

Charlotte Burrell (Formation)
Sheila Lund (Interaction)
Chris Mathewman (Finance)
Amanda Kelly (School)
Martin Mayhew
Chris Clissitt (Secretary)

Apologies:

Mick Britton (Liturgy B)

1. Welcome and opening prayer led by Fr William
2. **The minutes of the meeting on 17th January 2013** were approved. The only matter arising is the shrine, subject of a separate agenda item.
3. **Role of the PPC presidency and chair** and
4. **Composition of the PPC and clarification of terms:**

There are a number of new members following the recent Parish Council Elections and appointments to the Council by Fr William. Simon Knowles gave a brief outline of his role and how the new PPC would work, noting that members may wish to hold meetings with their parish ministries and make use of the resources within those groups.

Guidance is contained in the model constitution for PPCs in Leeds Diocese, circulated with these minutes.

5. Representation and web details

All members agreed to have their pictures published on the parish website with a couple of sentences about them and which activity they represent. It was agreed that individual phone numbers and e-mail addresses would not be published. Enquiries will be directed to the parish for forwarding to the relevant member. This will preferably be by e-mail only – to be discussed at the April meeting.

ACTION: all to send a brief “pen picture” (a couple of lines) and a photo (if available) to Fr William for inclusion on the website.

6. Review of the constitution

Deferred – we need to have a couple of meetings of the new council before reviewing and considering adoption of the Leeds Diocese model constitution for PPCs.

7. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Crag

Simon explained the situation at the Shrine which was described fully in the special report in the minutes of the last meeting in January:

<http://stmarysknaresborough.org/minutes/20130117ppcminutes.pdf>

Short term: the Shrine Group are planning to open on Easter weekend. However, the insurers stipulated that certain works had to be carried out to make the site safe, and the majority of them are yet to take place. Whilst risk assessments have been completed, they are necessarily subjective and the parish need to know that the Shrine Group have received written confirmation from the insurers that they are happy for the shrine to open this summer.

ACTION: Jeff McGillan to speak to Viv Thornes to understand the current position with the insurers and advise that the parish cannot allow the shrine to open without written confirmation from them as detailed above.

Long term: the one off funding requirement is up to £50k (up to £25k for trees and up to £25k for paths, access areas etc.) In addition, there needs to be sufficient income to maintain the site. Annual income is of the order of £600 pa, not enough to keep the site running.

Two points to consider for long term funding:

- If the parish were to raise money it would detract from other demands on parish funds such as the hall, kitchen and toilet which all need substantial work (up to £30/40k) and servicing the Ampleforth loan.
- Would the shrine be able to attract funding more easily if it were not linked to St Mary's and Ampleforth, which is perceived as wealthy even if that is not the reality?

To this end, it was suggested that the shrine freehold could be transferred to the Shrine Group or the site handed over to the council (as was St Robert's Cave) or to another suitable town group.

It was emphasised that the shrine is part of the history of Knaresborough and it was imperative that it was kept open in the long term. The least desirable outcome would be for the site to be fenced off and rendered inaccessible.

Various options for funding were discussed including the council, the lottery, other churches and organisations in Knaresborough, English Heritage and other such bodies.

Martin Mayhew suggested WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) which receives the majority of its funding from landfill tax. This is the Landfill Communities Fund

administered by ENTRUST who channel funds through landfill operators such as WREN. The Main Grant Scheme offers funding of between £15,001 and £75,000 to projects which fall within WREN policy and the Landfill Communities Fund. Grants are available for “The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site.” This option is worth exploring, and it should be noted that Calcutt Village Hall was funded through this scheme.

ACTION: All to consider whether the best long term future of the Shrine is (a) remaining linked to Ampleforth Abbey Trust or (b) an independent freehold, or (c) some other option.

8. PPC dates for 2013

Future meetings will now commence at 19.00:

Thursday 18th April 2013

Thursday 18th July 2013

Thursday 24th October 2013

9. Any other business

Easter egg hunt in the Church Garden after 10am Mass on Easter Sunday: Jeff will provide eggs free, but it was suggested that parents are invited to make donations towards Church funds.

10. Final prayer

Fr. William closed the meeting with a prayer at 21:00