

Notes taken at Meeting of Parish Representatives and Parochial Centre Committee - 19th January 2006

Father Xavier opened the meeting with a prayer and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes from the previous meeting on 25th October 2005 were then read by those present and accepted as a true record. Father asked that we deal with any matters arising from the previous meeting before we consider any other items anyone wanted to raise.

Father commented that once the shrubs at the side of the centre had been removed the area would be flattened but at present we would not tarmac it. He did ask however that the centre get an estimate for the cost of tarmac. Frank Redfearn for the centre commented that the work would be done soon but the committee member making the arrangement was currently on holiday.

Father then asked Steve Pettman what progress had been made towards replacing the kitchen. Steve was able to inform the meeting that the centre committee had been able to agree the work and that it would start in the next month or so. He asked that the various groups clear the kitchen cupboards as soon as possible. Steve estimated the cost of work to be £1,000 for materials but the labour would be by volunteers and cost nothing. After discussion it was agreed that the centre would supply storage space for items removed from the cupboards.

The 5 year surveyors report then occupied the remainder of the meeting with Father initially stating that the Church itself would be the first priority for repairs as it was the heart of the parish and everything else depended on it. The estimated cost of repairs would be in the region of £6,000 to £7,000. We would probably do the Presbytery next as it did not require too much money.

The Parochial Centre would be the most costly of all the repairs but the most urgent work was needed on the gable wall at the Lourdes Avenue end of the building, which needs to be stabilised at an estimated cost of £750. The main roof was the biggest item and Father pointed out that we needed to decide if we were going to patch or replace. Patching could cost £500 a year or more. We were still awaiting the surveyors estimated cost for the roof but it was expected to be in the region of £250,000. Frank Redfearn for the centre committee stated that the most urgent item at the moment was the roof on the beer cellar, which was leaking into the main building and needs completely replacing. Cliff Hughes estimated this at about £2000.

A discussion followed on the subject of replacement or patching of the roof and concluded with Father stating that before he could consider borrowing money he had to have proper estimates for the work. Once the surveyor provided his estimate we could then look at the money situation.

Frank Redfearn informed the meeting that the centre had already obtained estimates for repairs to the guttering, down pipes, rendering and fascia at the front of the building and these were £1,800.

Steve Pettman commented that with the cost of the kitchen, the estimate obtained for the front of the building and the cost of repairing the gable wall and beer cellar roof the centre needed about £5,700 of which they could probably find 50% and asked

Father if the Parish could help with the other 50%. Father agreed to this and asked that the work be done as soon as possible.

The final item Father raised from the report related to the Grotto. The surveyors report stated that the main roof support was badly rusted and we had a number of options open to us. Firstly we can replace the support, which would involve taking the roof off and then replacing it, secondly we could fence it off to prevent youths climbing onto it and thirdly we could demolish it and rebuild in a better location.

Following discussion it was agreed that an item in News and Views should seek the views of the Parish before we make any decisions.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer and it was agreed to hold the next meeting on 27th March 2006.