

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

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

Apologies were received from Tom Watson and there were 20 parish members present.

Minutes from the previous meeting on 19th January 2006 were then read by those present and accepted as a true record. Father asked if anyone would like to comment on the minutes before we proceeded with other items.

A question was asked as to the progress with the refurbishment of the kitchen within the centre as it would be used at the Summer Fair later in the month. At the last meeting Father had requested that someone contact the Environmental Health Officer who inspected the kitchen originally and to ask him to clarify the position on the preparation of food. This had been done and he had stated that he had no problem with sandwiches being prepared in the area provided they were not left in the open or kept for longer than 4 hours. In relation to catering for 120 Senior Citizens at their annual party he had no concerns over the provision and preparation of the cold buffet provided the ingredients were freshly prepared. He had been asked to confirm this in writing and Father read out this letter to the meeting and it was agreed that it was not very clear. Father had obtained a copy of the "Safer Food Better Standards" guide which was mentioned in the letter and it was agreed that we follow these guidelines. A temperature probe was needed and Margaret Guinan agreed to provide this for the Summer Fair and also arrange to purchase one for future use in the kitchen.

Mary Hardman raised an issue over the use of the urn for heating water for tea and coffee. Mary was concerned that the new kitchen did not allow room for the urn to be placed on the drainer as it had done in the past and that relocating it to a trellis table in the adjoining room was not a safe option. Frank Redfearn who had just joined the meeting commented on behalf of the centre committee that there were no plans at present to provide a water heater as the centre had already spent £1500 on the kitchen.

It was agreed that the parish would fund the provision of a suitable water heater and Father asked Frank to obtain estimates for him.

Inclosing this particular item Margaret Guinan asked that access to the kitchen be restricted for hygiene reasons on the day of the Summer Fair as in past years it had been used as thoroughfare.

Father then raised an issue on the behaviour of children attending private functions in the centre and asked that persons hiring the function room be asked to keep children under control. Recent incidents had resulted in children climbing the grotto and running through the churchyard. Frank agreed to include this information in future hire documents.

It was then suggested by the centre that they would like to organise a Saint Gerards Fun/Field Day for later in the year and would like assistance from parish group to make it a successful event. Frank Redfearn commented that all the surrounding clubs have some special occasion each year such as presidents day and it was felt that we should do the same.

It was agreed to hold an inaugural planning meeting on 3rd July at 8 p.m. to which all the parish group would be invited to send a representative.

Father then reported that the centre committee had agreed to fund the repairs to the guttering etc at the rear of the centre and he in turn had agreed to the provision of tarmac. Both of these would occur later in the year as funds became available.

A question was then raised over the future of the grotto. Father reported that he had not engaged an engineer at present because it would be expensive and we really need to make a decision over its future before we engage any professional help. It was agreed that an article in News and Views should seek opinions from the parish.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer and it was agreed to hold the next meeting on 18th September at 8 p.m.