

Notes taken at Meeting of Parish Group Representative and Parochial Centre Committee – 25th October 2005

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

Minutes from the previous meeting on 14th June 2005 were then read by those present and accepted as a true record.

Father Xavier then told the meeting that there was no agenda for this meeting but perhaps in future questions or items to be raised could be circulated beforehand so that those present could be prepared.

Father raised an issue over the condition of the kitchen area in the Parochial Centre and what the plans were for improvements and more importantly how would the kitchen be managed after the changes had taken place. Frank Redfearn for the Parochial Centre informed the meeting that the Ladies section had also raised this as an issue, but he personally believed that this was a parish facility and he didn't believe that locking cupboards was a good practice for a shared facility.

An open discussion took place and it was suggested that if the kitchen is refurbished locks should be fitted to cupboards but that there should be a common key for all these locks and it should be kept behind the bar. Private functions should make their own arrangements or an arrangement could be made for centre equipment to be used for a fee.

Steve Pettman mentioned that in the recent 5 year report submitted by the surveyors it states that the kitchen is not suitable in its present state for catering to functions.

Father Xavier asked that the Parochial Centre get estimates for the work necessary to bring the kitchen up to modern standards and then consider what they could contribute towards the cost and let him know what was outstanding. He would then try and help with the cost.

Steve also mentioned that all the work required to the centre could amount to £100,000 or more. Father Xavier said that any work required to the buildings which included the Parochial Centre had to be prioritised into three bands; these were work necessary in the next 12 months, the next 24 months and when money is available.

Steve expressed concern over liability for damages if work is not done. Father Xavier said he was confident that if we were taking steps to rectify the situation we would not have a problem. Steve then mentioned the trees and shrubs mentioned in the report which the surveyor believed were causing the problems with the external wall. Father told the meeting that he planned to call for help from the parish to cut these back before Christmas and finally remove them after the flower ladies had used them for Christmas. He then planned to cover the area with stones and it could be used for car parking.

Tom Watson believed this to be a bad move as loose stones would be used to throw at windows as had happened in the Cemetery. After a discussion it was agreed that this would be a bad move and it would be better to tarmac the area.

Father then raised an issue of behalf of Mrs Malone the head teacher at the school. Mrs Malone had been expected at the meeting and she was asking if it was possible for the centre to be used for an after school club. Steve Pettman didn't think this would be a problem and Frank Redfearn agreed that provided the centre was left in a clean condition ready for evening functions he was sure they could come to some arrangement. Frank asked if Father was aware of the number of children likely to make use of the club. Marie Swarries who had experience with a similar club in the Brownedge Parish said that numbers depended on available space and that these clubs are usually self funding and have their own management committee. Marie mentioned that storage is always an issue for this type of club. They will be catering for children aged 4 to 11 years old and need a lot of equipment.

Frank Redfearn stated that storage would be a problem as it had been with the playgroup that had use of the Parochial Centre until a few years ago. The area under the stage was no longer an option as the Fire Officer had declared storage in this location to be a fire hazard. It may be necessary for any such club to have its own external storage perhaps in the school itself or a shed/cabin outside. Father said he would pass on all that had been said and ask Mrs Malone to make contact with the centre committee.

Father then raised the car parking area at the front of the club as something that needed sorting sooner rather than later. Discussion would take place with the school governing body in the near future on this issue.

Father then mentioned that at the last meeting it had been agreed that he would have a full set of keys for the centre but this still had not happened. In recent days there had again been a need to get into the centre and he had been unable to get hold of a keyholder. Frank Redfearn stated that they were still awaiting one more key and then a full set would be handed over.

Frank then asked Father what other problems need addressing in the Parish as a whole and Father mentioned that the next two years would be very lean with regards to income and we needed some way to raise money to carry out repairs etc. Frank on behalf of the Parochial Centre offered any help they could give and were willing to co-operate in any fund raising ventures.

Jack Catterall asked Father if he intended to let the Parish know about the problems as he was completely unaware that we had to do so much work on the buildings. Father replied that we had not yet published the accounts for the year ending in August but that perhaps when we did it would be a good idea to mention what was needed.

Cliff Hughes on behalf of the maintenance committee volunteered to take on the work of getting a surveyor to cost all the work identified in the 5 year survey and once that had been obtained we would be in a better position to prioritise the work required.

David Walker then asked Frank and Steve if when Father called for volunteers to help with removing the trees and shrubs the centre could get its members to help, perhaps even supply a mechanical digger to remove stumps etc and keep the costs down as far as possible. Both agreed that this was a possibility and it was finally agreed that a member of the committee would arrange to remove the shrubs etc after Christmas and

would then use a compactor to flatten the ground ready for surface dressing. The costs involved would be less than £100 for the daily hire of a digger.

The meeting was then closed with a Prayer and it was agreed to hold a further meeting in January 2006.