

Notes taken at Meeting of Parish Representatives and Parochial Centre Committee - 27th March 2006

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

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.

Steve Pettman updated the meeting with regards to the shrubs at the side of the centre which had now been removed a rough estimate of £4,000 had been obtained for the cost of tarmac. Father Xavier thought this rather expensive and asked for at least two further estimates be obtained on his behalf. Father commented that St. Mary's Brownedge had an area at least double this size resurfaced last year for £5,000; Lancashire County Council did the work. Father also commented that he was worried where any surface water would go if we did surface the area. Steve said that any responsible contractor would either provide drainage or camber the surface towards an existing drain.

Steve Pettman also reported that the work on the front of the centre including the guttering, fascias, soffits and down pipes had now been completed as had the new rood on the beer cellar and the gable wall had now been made safe. The kitchen was 95% complete and Frank Redfearn had asked South Ribble Borough Council Environmental Health to inspect the kitchen to ensure it met current standards.

Frank Redfearn then updated the meeting on the outcome of the inspection. The inspector was impressed with the work done and had passed the kitchen for use but had warned us that it was not up to catering standards and could not be used for the preparation of food. The main problem was a lack of sufficient cold storage as the refrigerator was for light domestic use and not up to catering standards. A report on the survey with recommendations was expected within days. In the meantime the centre were now including a disclaimer on all booking forms. Margaret Guinan asked if she would be able to prepare sandwiches for the senior citizens get-together each month. Frank informed the meeting that the inspector didn't seem opposed to small scale catering but he would seek further advice and asked if in the meantime Margaret could prepare the sandwiches at home. Margaret pointed out that she too would need a licence and inspection if she started to prepare food at home. Frank agreed to supply Margaret with the phone number of the inspector at South Ribble so that she could seek clarification. It was also pointed out that this restriction would affect the Annual senior citizens party, the planned parish party and Fathers preparation of spring roles for jumbles and the Christmas fair. It was agreed to wait for the inspectors report before making any further decisions but Father said he would rather purchase an industrial catering refrigerator than not use the kitchen.

Father then commented on the minutes from the last meeting and in particular the item regarding repairs to the Church and Presbytery. He said he now proposed to repair the Presbytery first and to do the Church in the summer months. The Presbytery needed new guttering, fascias and down pipes along with some other items and three estimates had been obtained.

Father asked Steve Pettman if the centre had obtained an estimate for the work to the rear wall of the centre. Steve replied that to replace the guttering, fascias and down

pipes would cost £2,164:00 and the centre may be in a position to do this work towards the middle of the year.

Frank Tipping-Alston asked about the repairs to the centre roof – Father reported that it would cost £100 per square metre to repair i.e. about £250,000. Frank asked if it would be better to demolish the centre and rebuild it again. Father commented that this might cost in the region of £2 million. Frank Redfearn reported that he had spoken to three builders who all suggested that we sell the existing slates to offset the cost of replacing the roof with a composite material or tiles.

Brian Pails asked what the position was in relation to the Grotto as he had been waiting for the item to appear in News and Views. Father replied that it was decided to with hold the item as the subject would be very sensitive to a number of parishioners and he didn't want to cause any upsets. Tom Watson commented that the subject had been discussed around the parish and he didn't think there would be any opposition if we did want to demolish it.

Father commented that we have three options a) Demolition, b) Rebuild elsewhere, if so where would that be and how big would we make it c) place supports internally to hold the roof up. It was agreed that we engage an engineer to give us an accurate report on the options available to us. In the mean time signs would be placed around the Grotto warning that it is unsafe.

Before closing the meeting Father commented that an event had been arranged for the next evening to raise funds to replace shrubs around the church grounds to be used by the flower arrangers. These would be placed at various locations but at least 1 to 1 ½ metres from any of the railings.

Steve Pettman asked that a note be made that the centre bookings were going well and that if any parish organisation wanted to secure a date for the future they should do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer and it was agreed to hold the next meeting on 19th June 2006 at 8 p.m.