

**The Sacred Heart Church, Wadhurst and St. Peter's Rotherfield**

**Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2017 in the Sacred Heart Church Annexe at 1930 hours**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Fr. Martin O'Connor</b>	<b>Frances Dorr</b>	<b>Ann Mulleneux</b>
	<b>Daphne Bagshawe (chair)</b>	<b>Jon Elsby</b>	<b>Greg O'Higgins</b>
	<b>Nick Bagshawe</b>	<b>Clare Kent</b>	<b>Kate Purcell</b>
	<b>Toni Buckley</b>	<b>George Micallef</b>	<b>Len Tudor</b>
	<b>Jerome Curran</b>		

<b>1. WELCOME</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
The Chairman welcomed members to the PPC Meeting	
<b>2. OPENING PRAYER</b>	
Fr. Martin opened the meeting with a prayer.	
<b>3. Apologies for absence:</b> All members present	
<b>4. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
Minutes were approved .	
Fr. Kevin's grave: Jon had contacted the family and they will confirm that they are happy for a headstone to be erected. Fr. Martin reported that Peggy Pursloe had obtained a very reasonable quotation from a firm in Lincoln. The PPC agreed that a request for donations from parishioners who would like to contribute to the total cost in the region of £800 would be put in the newsletter and any surplus could go to the upkeep of the graveyard. It was also agreed that Greg would ask the PFC to authorise any balance should funds not be sufficient.	TB GO'H
Graveyard: Fr. Martin reported that the school had proposed erecting a stronger gate to the graveyard to be kept locked at weekends to meet demands of health and safety but that he had insisted that there needs to be access at weekends for the elderly and infirm of the parish who need to drive down to visit the graves. The PPC supported Fr Martin's stance since as there are no children attending school at the weekends the needs of the Parish should come first during that period; it was also agreed that the caretaker should be asked to close and lock the gate early Monday mornings rather than expect Fr Martin to do this. It was noted that the trees have now been re-installed and that the school had asked for a sign to be put up in front of the church pointing out the path to the graveyard and this would be arranged.	
Liturgy Room: George Micallef had kindly looked into the option of providing a portable cabin behind the church but following discussion it was concluded that the available space would only allow for a very small building that would probably not be	

<p>sufficient for the needs of the children as it would only cater for 8 children and there are sometimes more than this. It was agreed that he would investigate other options including the provision of further soundproofed doors and this would be reconsidered at the next PPC meeting.</p> <p>Updated list of PPC Members: this was now displayed on the wall in the annexe.</p>	GM
<p><b>5. Parish Roles</b></p> <p>Daphne reiterated that the role of the PPC was to advise Fr. Martin and sometimes take decisions when requested by him rather than just receiving information; therefore it followed that the agenda should only include items requiring advice or decisions rather than receiving all the reports under individual headings although any areas of special interest could always be included.</p> <p>Assignment of roles to individual PPC members was discussed and the following agreed: Fr Martin would continue to have Pastoral role; Toni would continue to liaise with Fr Martin over liturgy and would continue to help with fundraising until someone came forward to take on that role(not necessarily a PPC member). Clare would continue as PPC secretary. Frances would continue with social action, mainly our work with Nourish and was prepared to continue her role with child safeguarding and the health and safety toolbox on the understanding that a volunteer could observe the annual undertaking and take this on the following year. Nick agreed to stay on the PPC as the representative from Rotherfield until another member agreed to take over. Jerome and Jon agreed to be responsible for fabric and buildings with George providing skilled guidance when required. Len agreed to take on project of responding to property developers interested in St. Peter's Rotherfield. Ann volunteered to be the CTIW representative. Kate volunteered to take on a new and very important role of school-parish liaison with the caveat that any issues regarding development plans would continue to be Daphne's responsibility. It was agreed that it was important to establish happier working relationships with the school and hopefully undertake shared projects as a unified team.</p>	
<p><b>6. Parish reports</b></p> <p><b>Fundraising /Social</b></p> <p>Daphne mentioned that there are 33 2<sup>nd</sup> collections set up by the diocese and it is important that any other charities and objectives have the united support of the parish. Toni pointed out that Sacred Heart used to donate £500 annually to Carillon Cottage and that many parishioners benefited, including the Rosary and Healing groups held there. The PPC agreed that they would recommend an annual donation to the PFC. Greg agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting in two weeks and that they were happy for any concerns such as this to be put forward for consideration.</p> <p>Toni had not had any volunteers to take on overall responsibility for fundraising but had a couple of offers from people willing to be involved. Forthcoming events being planned are a quiz night on 29<sup>th</sup> April, possible hiring of cinema, Burns night supper and possible open air Mass with picnic on 21<sup>st</sup> May to celebrate Father Martin's birthday.</p>	G O'H

## **Pastoral**

Discussion was held as to timing of school masses and it was agreed that although it was very important to accommodate the school's needs it was hoped that both sides would be flexible and that it was important to plan ahead so that everyone would know the Mass times in advance.

Clare mentioned that no Bibles were available in church when someone has asked for one at a CTIW service recently and it was agreed that some should be purchased.

TB

## **Fabric and Buildings**

Daphne reported that property developers were interested in purchasing a strip of land beside the church at Rotherfield in order to provide access to possible building land. The Diocese has made it clear that they are not willing to take up the idea at the moment but Daphne felt that pressures would not cease and that the whole area was potentially worth a great deal of money, so she welcomed Len's offer to provide advice and support going forward.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Clare had been asked to inform the PPC that CTIW meetings would be held three times a year in the different churches, the first being at Tidebrook and would involve a lunch and few relevant discussions with parishioners being invited to join the meeting at their church and organize the lunch.

Frances advised that as Nourish had been so successful in collecting food items over the Christmas period there would be a pause for the next two months and any money usually donated to them could be given to another cause. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to suggest donations could be made to our Kiltegan training for the priesthood.

## **8.Date of next meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7PM**

## **9 CLOSING PRAYER**

Fr. Martin closed the meeting with a prayer.