

ST ANDREW'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 21st APRIL 2017

In attendance: Fr John Hine (Chairman)
 Nuala Smith Peter Lonergan
 Deacon Jolyon Vickers Roger Styles

Apologies: Sylwia Dorosz Andrew Butler
 Elena Peck Lorraine Sharp

A meeting of the St Andrew's Catholic Church Parish Council took place on Monday 21st April 2017 at 7.30pm under Fr John's chairmanship.

Serial	Agenda Item	Action	Comment
1.	Fr John's Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fr John noted the absence of Andrew, Lorraine, Sylwia and Elena. He welcomed those who were able to attend. 		
2.	Minutes of last meeting & matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actions arising from the meeting of 17 Oct 16 were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The repository was now running very well. As requested, a "week by week" scripture course had been obtained and reviewed by Fr John and the Deacon. Jolyon agreed to lead the course once the commitment to the parish website development abated. Fr John reported that the new cushions had been well received. Some donations had been received but £500 more was needed to cover VAT charges. All other actions had been completed. 	Jolyon	
3.	Update on Parish Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jolyon informed the group that the data collection input exercise had been completed, but there remained a number of entries about which we could not be certain. After discussion, it was agreed that a small group of long-term parishioners (preferably, Andrew Butler, Elena Peck and Mary Iglinski) would be invited to scrutinise the new database in order to refine it further. Fr John agreed to approach those mentioned. 	Fr John	
4.	Parish Finances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earlier, Sylwia had confirmed that the financial situation was much the same as was reported to the Finance Committee in Feb 17, viz: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Receipts for 2016 (less those attributed to the Parish Centre) amounted to £58,285, while payments stood at £48,710. At present there was a healthy bank balance in the order of £18,531." It was reiterated that no Gift Aid recoveries had yet been received and the healthy current financial situation disguised the lack of routine charges for the Parish Priest. The presentation of financial data to parishioners was 		

	<p>discussed and it was agreed that income and expenditure pie charts would be prepared so that they might be attached to a weekly newsletter as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jolyon agreed to work with Sylwia in order to minimize the detail on the charts, including grouping diocesan and similar collections as “pass through” activities. 	Jolyon & Sylwia	
5.	<p>Development Fund & Parish Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger briefed on the Parish Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our obligation to repay £17.5K in 2016 had been met. We intended to continue payments at that level until 2020, after which the final year commitment is much smaller. In total, we still owe £76.2K. ○ Income was principally from donations from hall users (£16.4K) and from parishioners’ standing orders (£6.4K), with other donations totalling £2.7K. No Gift Aid receipts had yet been received. ○ Generally, running costs and maintenance charges were down, but there had been small increases in salaries for the hall manager and gardener. ○ Suggested donations for use of the hall had not been raised this year. • Prospects for the year looked good, with hall bookings increasing, reflecting the high quality of our facilities. However maintenance issues such as sewage problems and maintenance of the hall floor loomed. • After discussion, Peter agreed to approach the Parish Centre architect to determine whether there was a design fault in the arrangements for sewage. • Other, church-wide maintenance issues were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imminent work to renew the drainage in front of the porch, and renovate the church’s guttering; ○ The need for decoration and improved lighting in the church, both of which were poor but would be costly to undertake. 	Peter	
5.	<p>The Parish Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the new parish website was underway to refine content and to obtain suitable photographs and images. • A major challenge in the future would be to ensure that the operational website was kept up to date on a weekly basis. • Everyone was asked to keep a look out for a [young] volunteer who might be interested in helping keep the website current. 	All	
6.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter raised comments he had received from parishioners. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the winter the church was cold for the 08.30 am mass and the heater over the door in the porch was noisy and often ineffective. Fr John agreed to alter the central heating timing. • Peter also informed the group that the annual Volunteers’ Party would be held on Sat 8 Jul 17, starting at 19.30. He 	Fr John	

	<p>would put the arrangements in place and Fr John agreed to advertise the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger informed the group that there was a drive to improve our security preparedness in the wake of terrorist attacks on churches in Europe. Advice, including a review by the Kent Police Crime Prevention Office, had been received and simple instructions would be published at the end of May 17. 	<p>Fr John</p> <p>Roger</p>	
7.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 13th October 2017 at 7.30pm. 	<p>All</p>	

Fr John Hine
Parish Priest