

Minutes for the Chapel Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 30th March 2023

St John Fisher & St Thomas More, Chapel-en-le-Frith

AGENDA

- 1.) Opening prayer
- 2.) Apologies for absence
- 3.) Minutes of last meeting (matters arising not covered below)
- 4.) Situation regarding Tideswell Church and the diocesan offer
- 5.) Finance
- 6.) Safeguarding (training and DBS checks)
- 7.) Suggestion to raise money for a debrillator for church
- 8.) Any other business
- 9.) Date of next meeting

Present

Don Lavery, Pat Dawson, Frank Frost, Barbara Hindley, Jacqui Lavery, Anne Lomas, Joan Matthews, Anne Parker, Sue Thornhill

MINUTES

- 1.) The meeting opened with a prayer.
- 2.) Apology for absence was received from Fr. Gerry, who was attending a governors meeting at St Thomas More School.
On a point of order Fr Gerry has asked Anne Parker to be chair. Anne is willing to be chair for the next 3 meetings on a trial basis. Don pointed out that to appoint a vice chair would require amendment to the constitution.
- 3.) Matters arising from last meeting's minutes:
Don discussed the action he has taken regarding the Health and Safety report.
Doreen, Bill and Sheila need personal evacuation plans. 'Greeters' will need to identify any disabled visitors who may need special consideration in the event of evacuation. Don has purchased 2 fire exit signs, 1 is up, location of the second is undecided. Don will buy torches, their location and use will be discussed with those who meet and greet. Fire extinguishers have been checked (cost £36). Scheduling of a fire drill to be carried forward as Don is seeking advice, no response yet from asking diocese what other parishes do. Resurfacing of the drive is likely to be a long-term goal as new figures confirm a likely cost of 10s of thousands of pounds. Frank has taken over Health and Safety matters and is considering options from looking at previous reports, to be discussed at the next meeting.
The parish have appointed a Ukrainian lady, Ludmilla, to be housekeeper. She lives locally and is currently coming on Tuesday mornings.
- 4.) Don reminded us of the diocesan proposal and valuations and proposal for Tideswell church and then asked the PPC members present at the meeting their views individually regarding the possible options. All were unanimously in favour of receiving a settlement of half the current value, estimated at £107,250, rather than waiting for any subsequent development of the building (as residential/holiday let or home for retired priest). Following consultation with the parish (via bulletin and announcement at mass) 2 parishioners also expressed this same view. Don mentioned that the diocesan view was currently to prioritise

project/mission rather than maintenance therefore the diocese may not sanction spending it on a new drive. A letter will be sent to the diocese to inform them of our views, Sue will draft an initial response.

- 5.) Finance, Don reported that the parish balance is around £15,000 with approximately £4,000 tax relief claim due from HMRC and Fr Gerry's annual money (£3-3,500) due to be paid out.
- 6.) Safeguarding, Sue and Fr Gerry attended safeguarding training on 8th March in Buxton. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook is now available on the website and a hard copy will be received in the parish soon. The new online DBS application system is now live requiring less paper forms but still one form DBS3c and ID identification as before. Safeguarding training for volunteers will be scheduled from June with further training on domestic abuse, modern day slavery and managing sex offenders planned. Fr Gerry is still intending to arrange a meeting in Buxton with Rachael (diocesan safeguarding co-ordinator) for Buxton and Chapel parishioners. The March Safeguarding newsletter and a link to the Parish Safeguarding Toolkit (forms etc.) is to be put on the parish website.
- 7.) Andrew Kadzevski has questioned the possibility of having a defibrillator outside church. The location of nearby defibrillators (Chapel Park and the Co-op) was discussed, also if any potential training may be needed and cost. Anne will discuss this further with Andrew and Frank will look into potential cost and availability of any free schemes.
- 8.) The possibility of putting a plaque for Marie on the seat where she put a plaque for her mother and daughter was discussed and welcomed by the committee. Barbara checked with her daughter Jenny who was delighted. A plant/shrub will also be put adjacent to the seat. Pat suggested we should do something as a parish around the coronation, a shared tea in the garden on Monday 8th May will be planned.
Don mentioned that more help is sought to maintain the garden, this will be announced at mass and put in the bulletin.
- 9.) Date of next meeting 25th May at 4.00 p.m.