



St Benedict's Parish

"A Place to Grow"



ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2014

Present: Karen Derbyshire (Chair) Joanne O'Hara (Secretary)
Fr Gerard Jim Guthrie
Trish Sandbach Nermine George
Monica Walker Susan Blackburn

1.0 Welcome

Karen (chair) welcomed all present to the meeting and received apologies and absences.

2.0 Opening Prayer

Led by Joanne O'Hara

3.0 Apologies for absence

Rena, Alan, KarenC

6.0 St Gregory's Credit Union talk by Patrick McGreevy and Val Hewson

Patrick and Val from St. Theresa's came to talk to the PPC about St Gregory's Credit Union.
PG – Patrick explained that the Credit Union had been around for 20 years and that they were now looking to expand their membership and provide an alternative to the cowboy lenders with sky high loan rates. He ran through the Credit Union's focus for the next three years which included serving all the parishes in the Deanery by improving and increasing collection points.
VH – Val showed us how the shares and loans were administrated.

It was explained that the current loan rate is 8.4%, which beats the Leeds Credit Union rate and there are no penalties for paying off early etc. Applying for a loan is very simple and could be approved immediately, with a simple form to fill in and no questions asked as to whether you work or not.

Loans can be for any amount up to £15,000. It was asked if they had many bad debtors, but it was said that most borrowers understood that the money they have belongs to other members of the parish community.

The share rate is 1.5% which is thought to again be competitive. It is a good way of saving regularly by standing order for eg. grandchildren or Christmas/holidays.

Money from local councillors is used for things such as buying new computers and promotion.

4.0 Approve the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

5.0 Willow workshop

SB explained that Toni Cross was to do a site visit at St Benedicts on Thursday 23rd October 2014. We are looking at 12th November 2014 for 20/25 people to come and help construct. We would like both school and the parish to be involved and use the 200 club money to pay for it.

Community mosaic

SB has found a local company on Kirkstall Road called Seagulls. They reuse local resources and donated spare tiles and paint. The cost for a 1mx1m panel would be £400-600. The idea of involving school in the design was suggested and then display it on the back wall of church, where it could be seen by the children. SB suggested leaving this project until the New Year. TS suggested a possible link with Puenticitos.

7.0 Open meetings

GK suggested having an open PPC meeting at least once a year for parishioners to come along and bring thoughts and ideas. If we could keep the meeting really open and friendly and maybe have a glass wine. It was agreed that any issues should be suggested beforehand and that we could ask parishioners to post signed ideas on the Narthex noticeboard. This will be brought up again at the next meeting.

8.0 Live Simply

TS – Trish explained that they had had two meetings to come up with suggestions for bringing the Live Simply campaign to the parish: What it is and what is involved. The 100 live simply ideas would be made into visual image ideas and on the 1st Sunday of Advent there will be an advent challenge. After Christmas a plan will be formulated, followed by a portfolio ready in the summer.

9.0 Community Pantomime

SB has found a company called Pocket Panto who have a date free to come and perform for us in the Parish Centre. Susan had seen them before and they are very good and reasonably priced. Susan said that they could come and perform Mother Goose on Friday 5th December, starting at 7pm. The Parish Centre can seat 96 people which would cover the cost by selling tickets at £4 each (no concessions). Refreshments would be sold in the interval and a few ladies have already offered their help. Susan was thinking of approaching Tesco for donations. Volunteers were asked to help sell tickets after Masses and school would be contacted to advertise in the Friday post. It was felt that a certain number of tickets should be held back to be sold via NET. It was agreed to have the tickets ready for 1st November 2014.

10.0 Next steps action plan with the above

GK agreed to invite Pat and Val to speak about the Credit Union after all Masses one weekend. All were in agreement with their aims and objectives. We would ask them to explain the mechanics and the need for volunteers to help run things at St Benedicts. MW suggested using case studies to illustrate.

11.0 Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th November 2014 at 7.30pm

Chairperson – Trish Sandbach

Prayers – Rena Paul