

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
4th October 2010, Presbytery 7 p.m.

MINUTES (Draft)

Present: Nick Weeks (NW) (chair), Richard Arundell (RA), Felicity MacSwiney, (FM), Krystyna Morgan (KM), Mark Shuldham (MS), Fr Thomas, Philadelphia Whittaker (PW)

Apologies: Patricia Coopman (PC), Mike Montgomery (MM)

Welcome & thanks:

The chairman welcomed Richard Arundell back to the Pastoral Council.

1. *Minutes of last meeting (12th July 2010)*

The Minutes of the last meeting, circulated previously, were approved.

2. *Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting not dealt with below*

3. *Annual General Meeting follow-up:*

(i) It was observed that Ann Windsor's request regarding the windows of the parish rooms had been acted upon and the windows were not only clean but refurbished and painted, for which members were very grateful. It was agreed that this action should be noted in a 'one - off' "Pastoral Council Box" in the Parish Bulletin. **Action: PC & Fr T**

(ii) the three other issues raised at the AGM and noted in the 'AGM Meeting Summary' (cf. bullet points), were discussed with the following outcomes:

(a) *... better Mass Sheets etc...*

CTS sheets for children are available in the church porch as are missals to help visitors who are not Catholics;

Action: (note to this effect in "Pastoral Council Box" in Parish Bulletin) **PC & Fr T**

(b) *... community links & parishioners who are ill...*

The sensitivity of information regarding parishioners' health was recognised: some parishioners welcome being named and prayed for while others wish to remain anonymous. Following discussion, it was agreed that rather than having a book in the porch (as previously suggested), a box labelled "Prayer Intentions" should be made available into which anyone so wishing could place a prayer intention. This could include the sick who so wished and wider intentions. The box would be monitored on a trial basis and Fr T could ask for intentions to be included in the Sunday Bidding Prayers - either specifically or in general terms - as appropriate. It was agreed that this proposal would be not be publicised immediately but at a later date. **Future Action: PC & Fr T**

(c) *... formatting of the newsletter...*

It was agreed that the Newsletter should remain at its present size and that as the font size currently used is 'reader friendly' it should not be reduced.

3. *Thank You Lunch*

The chair thanked all those who had contributed to the occasion. Fr T was thanked for his speech. The lunch was generally felt to have been a success with a good age range of parishioners, although some who contribute greatly to the parish were unable to attend. It was noted, however, that the Council's hope that the occasion might identify or prompt new volunteers had not been realised. NW asked that the subject of volunteering be an agenda item for the next meeting.

It was suggested that a brief comment on the event should be included in the proposed "Pastoral Council Box" on the bulletin. **Action: Fr T, PC**

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4. *Vision Statement*

The Council's invitation to provide it with feedback about the proposed Statement had generated three contributions which were tabled. All contributions were positive. One contribution raised the question of whether the Statement could prove 'meaningful' without greater clarity of roles in the church. The difficulty was acknowledged by members and the need for increasing "bottom up" initiative was affirmed as a priority for a parish council. Suggestions regarding the order of the bullet points were discussed at some length and it was agreed that the Statement should be reordered as follows:

We, the members of the parish of the Sacred Heart, Tisbury
and All Saints, Wardour, have a vision that we shall:

- ❖ nurture our faith and love of God through our prayer and sacramental lives
- ❖ recognising our own need for forgiveness, provide hope for the world in the face of failure
- ❖ live as a supportive and welcoming community, extending God's unconditional welcome to all
- ❖ proclaim the Gospel to all by our service of others

It was agreed that the Statement should now be published and adopted by the parish.

Action: NW (Draft for bulletin attached), **Fr. T, PC**

5. *Bishop's Visitation*

Fr T read the letter informing him of the Bishop's visitation on 31st October. Bishop Declan will preside & preach at all Masses and plans are underway for a bring & share parish lunch in Hinton Hall. The visitation will be announced at the Harvest Supper on Friday, 8th and in the following parish newsletters. It was unclear whether Bishop Declan wished to see the Pastoral Council collectively and Fr T agreed to seek clarification on this. If the bishop does want to meet the PPC collectively it was agreed that this could be arranged either as a follow-on after the lunch in Hinton Hall, or later at a 'tea' in the presbytery. The possibility of meeting even later, prior to the 6.30 Sunday evening Mass, was also mooted but members felt that the later the meeting the less productive it might be.

6. *AOB*

7. *Date of next meeting*

The date of the next meeting was agreed for **Monday, 15th November 7 p.m.**

8. *Agenda items for next meeting*

- Previous proposal regarding Working Party on Volunteering