

**ST JOHN FISHER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at 19:30 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

|   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| # | Fr Graham Stokes                          | Parish Priest             |
| * | Kay O'Connor                              | Catechist                 |
| * | Michael Parkinson                         | Finance                   |
| * | Neville Bayross                           |                           |
| * | Neil Cocking                              | Chairman, Music & Liturgy |
| * | Claire Mendonca-Yeboah                    | Social Outreach           |
| * | Gerald O'Keefe                            | Safeguarding              |
| + | Delores McLean-Boyd                       | Safeguarding              |
| + | Neville Ransley                           | Education / Catechesis    |
| * | Nuala Rodger                              | Young People              |
| * | Elsbeth Everitt                           | Clerk                     |
| * | <i>Member present</i>                     |                           |
| # | <i>Member present for part of meeting</i> |                           |
| + | <i>Apologies</i>                          |                           |

| Item No |  | Action      |
|---------|--|-------------|
| 1       | <p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening Prayer</b><br/>Fr Graham opened the meeting with prayer. Apologies have been received from Delores Mclean-Boyd &amp; Neville Ransley</p>   |             |
| 2       | <p><b>Minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> September 2019)</b><br/>Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.<br/><b>Matters arising:</b> Neil has not yet contacted the pre-school leaders (item 9) but parking difficulties for those attending weekday morning Mass is urgent. One family is unable to attend Mass because they have mobility problems and are unable to park near the church. It was agreed that additional clearly marked disabled parking spaces should be made available.</p>   | <b>Neil</b> |
| 3       | <p><b>Parish Priest's remarks &amp; Stewardship Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stewardship drive was successful and resulted in an increase in promised offertory donations. Time &amp; talent forms are being followed up.</li> <li>• The School of Ignatian Prayer has started &amp; carries on for another 4 sessions.</li> <li>• An appeal for Bhakita House is coming up &amp; donations of toys for the children of prisoners have begun to come in.</li> <li>• Fr Tim Hutton was welcomed to the parish.</li> <li>• Floralba Robayo, the newly appointed bookkeeper will be working on Mondays.</li> <li>• A new administrator has been selected and the appointment is awaiting confirmation.</li> <li>• The contract for cleaning has been amended to ensure the cleaner is paid the London Living Wage.</li> </ul> |             |

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|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations to come are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Apollo Male Voice choir concert</li> <li>○ Polish evening</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fr Johnpromise Umeozuru will be saying his first Mass in this parish on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11:30 followed by a shared lunch</li> <li>• The Finance Committee looks after the financial affairs of the parish.</li> <li>• A Property Group has been set up and will assess work needed on the church premises, agree priorities and plan repairs.</li> <li>• The role of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is to be an advisory body on pastoral, spiritual and social action in the parish. They will plan &amp; organise parish events, e.g. the Senior Citizens lunch. A date was agreed for this – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020.</li> </ul> |                                      |
| 4.      | <p><b>Finance Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the stewardship drive new standing orders are being set up from forms received.</li> <li>• Mike Parkinson will be standing down as Chair of the Finance Committee and was thanked for his work. The new Chair will be Jonathan Fernandes.</li> <li>• The bank balance was £144,732 at the end of October.</li> <li>• The decision has been made not to re-pay the Diocesan loan more quickly than scheduled because some unexpected expenses have arisen.</li> </ul>   |                                      |
|         | Fr Graham left the meeting at this point for a hospital visit.   |                                      |
| 5       | <p><b>Property Report</b></p> <p>Work is being carried out on the flat at 11 Imperial Close to alleviate condensation in the kitchen and replace the front door.</p>   |                                      |
| 6       | <p><b>Annual Parish Meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To try to increase attendance it was proposed that Fr Graham could promote the APM at all Masses on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• A change to the usual format was suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Business meeting begins at 7:30. Kay will sort out Powerpoint slides</li> <li>○ Then a break for refreshments</li> <li>○ A large social calendar of planned events for 2020 is put up for parishioners to add in events they would like to organise</li> <li>○ Building on the Time &amp; Talents forms – during refreshments have a ‘meet &amp; greet’ for different roles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <p><b>Kay</b></p> <p><b>Neil</b></p> |

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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was proposed that the APM was moved to earlier in the year in 2020.</li> </ul>  |        |
| 7       | <p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is progressing on obtaining DBS clearance for all groups. Checking of members of the SVP and Bereavement groups is now complete. The Diocese has a backlog of forms which is delaying the process.</li> <li>A link has been set up from our parish websites to the Diocesan Safeguarding page.</li> <li>Fr Graham, Kay and the Safeguarding representatives are to meet quarterly to review safeguarding policy and practice in the parish.</li> <li>The Diocese safeguarding team has asked that young parishioners provide some drawings for inclusion in their quarterly newsletter. We have volunteered to participate in this project and will be involving the St John Fisher schoolchildren.</li> </ul>     |        |
| 8       | <p><b>Education</b><br/> First Communion &amp; RCIA preparation is going well. The Confirmation group is smaller than in past years (about 28). The school is consulting on a review of admission policy.</p>   |        |
| 9       | <p><b>Young Adults</b><br/> Nothing to report at the moment.</p>  |        |
| 10      | <p><b>Harrow Citizens update</b><br/> The Delegates Assembly to decide on London Citizens' priorities for the 2020 London Mayoral election will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Only 2 members of St John Fisher parish are currently signed up so we may not have a vote on priorities. Discussion highlighted the following main areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health, particularly of young people. Stress caused by an undeliverable exam curriculum in normal school hours.</li> <li>Youth safety</li> <li>Welcoming newcomers &amp; refugees</li> <li>Climate emergency – it was suggested that the parish could do more to improve the environment e.g. having a Mary's Meals collection twice a year.</li> <li>Housing</li> </ul> |        |
| 11      | <p><b>AOB</b><br/> Claire is resigning from the Parish Council as her baby is due soon. Mike expects this to be his last meeting as</p>   |        |

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|---------|--|--------|
|         | he will no longer be Chair of the Finance Committee.                   |        |
|         | The meeting ended at 8.45pm  |        |
|         | <b>Next meeting:<br/>Parish Council Meeting: Date to be confirmed.</b> |        |

Signed..... Date.....

**Initialed.....**