

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 13 June 2008 at 7.30pm  
at the Parish Centre

PRESENT: (35 IN TOTAL)

Sean Nugent, Chair (SN)  
Heather Deegan (HD)  
Bertie Napier (BN)  
Nando Braz (NB)  
Chris Keogh (CK)

Ex Officio:

Canon Eddie Matthews (EM)  
Brian Shea (BS)  
Terry Grace (TG)

Secretary: Alison Gornall (AG)

PARISHIONERS ATTENDING:-

Jack Nash	Peter Collett
Helen Diment	Theresa Cannon
Peter Diment	Mary Cannon
Brenda O'Carroll	Alison Jones
Terry O'Carroll	Marjorie Jessop
Meg Hardy	Leo Brown
Patricia Maureso	Ruth Read
Richard Maureso	William Fisher
Mr A Moylan	E Workman
Mrs J Moylan	Gillian Napier
Michael Frost	Robert Purcell
Doreen Frost	Liz Basey
M Grace	P A Leng

1	The meeting was opened with a prayer led by the Committee.	<b>ACTION</b>
2	Apologies were received from Patrick Haynes (PH), Julia O'Sullivan (JO'S), Alan Basey, Chris Deane-Bowers (CD-B). After the Minutes of last year's AGM meeting had been approved and signed by SN, he delivered his Chairman's Report covering the five meetings held since the last AGM. He apologised for the fact that a meeting between Chris Keogh re Social Care and other relevant groups of the Parish had not yet taken place, but it was intended it should as soon as possible. Having received recently CK's letter of resignation from the Committee he wished to	

	<p>take this opportunity to thank Chris for his contribution to the PPC and for the sterling work he has been doing over many years with the needy of our town, which we know he will continue to do despite leaving the PPC. He also advised that the original Chair of the Social Events Sub-Committee has felt it necessary to vacate the position for personal reasons. He was grateful to BN and NB for stepping into the breach recently and for assisting in the organisation of the Parish's imminent Hog Roast.</p>	
	<p>A report from the Chairman of the Parish Finance Committee was then delivered with questions being answered afterwards. SN then thanked BS for his very concise report.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Each of the Chairmen then spoke about their own sub-committee's activities:</p> <p><b>CK: Social Care</b> is that aspect of Parish life which deals specifically with economic and social realities of the community in which we live. We promote social justice in witness of Christian faith and Gospel values for all marginalised and vulnerable people in collaboration with other Parish organisations and individuals. Using recent examples of people in need whom he has been able to help, he brought home to all the fact that not all residents in Bishop's Stortford are happy, healthy and well. His efforts to redress the balance for those families he could help were applauded by those present. He sought people's understanding that even though they may have items to donate, if there was not a family in need of that item at that time he had no means of storing items until they were required. He hoped, though, that people would still continue to offer donations nonetheless.</p> <p><b>NB: Maintenance</b>, in conjunction with Chartered Surveyors Barker &amp; Associates, is continuing to update its five-year plan for the internal and external needs of the Church. Once we know what costs are</p>	

involved with the new joint-hall venture we will then know what type of budget we are able to work with. The site has been inspected twice this year and regular maintenance has been carried out as necessary. Maintenance is an ongoing business. It was confirmed that although a Depreciation Fund is not held, funds are available in a Maintenance Fund for use as needed.

**HD for PH: Christian Formation** (PH, HD, Tony Wood, Marie Grace, Pauline Haynes, Mark Shakespeare) – Small Faith Groups serve to encourage parishioners to meet and get to know each other in an informal way whilst increasing their knowledge of Scripture and Church teachings. 40 parishioners took part in session in Autumn last year and Lent 2008. They suggested the need for a Welcoming Group at Masses particularly to aid newcomers to the Parish. – Youth Worker to help encourage/support our young not to drift away from the faith by creating a Youth Group has been considered, with much research undertaken by PH. An ecumenical approach might be advantageous incorporating the several successful youth groups in town. However, an annual salary of £40,000 for a minimum of three years is expected. Ongoing investigation to include looking at how successful youth groups operate in other Hertfordshire Catholic parishes. We are also hoping a couple of our young people currently in Sydney for World Youth Day may join a sub-committee of the PPC on their return. – Diocesan Talks are being considered on topics relevant to the modern world such as living out our faith in the home and workplace; coping with old age, long-term sickness and bereavement and the sub-committee would welcome parishioners' views so that a worthwhile attendance and active participation may ensue.

**BN Liturgy:** advised attendees of the progress with the Liturgy questionnaire and took the opportunity to thank CD-B for his assistance in sifting through the

	<p>273 useable papers received back. He advised how the results had been split between the different Masses, gender, age etc. A couple of prominent areas were apparent: principally music and the part it played in enhancing the Mass, and interestingly the desire of people to have and participate in a Welcome Group rota. Another theme repeated throughout was the high esteem in which Canon Eddie is held by the parishioners. The attendees were given many illustrations of the findings and were advised a final overview would be made available shortly. EM thanked BN and his team for all their efforts in this connection.</p> <p><b>Social Events:</b> As mentioned above, no-one is currently in the Chair although we have ever been hoping JO'S would be in a position to return to it. However, NB and BN are going to try to get some things going together with other Parish groups.</p>	
4	<p>Amendments to the Constitution: SN explained these were needed as the Committee was too small eg no-one "surplus" to stand in for Social Events. Need two extra elected members already for JO'S and CK. NB proposed acceptance of the two amendments which was unanimously agreed by the 35 parishioners present.</p>	
5	<p>Results of Parish Ballot for PPC – Jack Nash and CD-B were duly elected from the nominations received and unanimous approval was given to the election of Tony Moylan and Leo Brown at the AGM under the new rules approved above.</p>	
6	<p>Announcement of Current Membership of Committee: given as SN, PH, HD, NB, BN with Chairs for Social Care/Events to be announced.</p>	
7	<p>Any Other Business: New Parish Centre – EM provided up-to-date</p>	

	<p>information and in particular wished to thank Tony Barrance for his tremendous help and the Town Council has been very positive. Despite many delays by EHDC (particularly concerning trees) things appear to be moving forward again. It is likely our site will be used for off-loading equipment, etc and therefore we are not going to be in a position to raise funds from selling the site outright. However, we are grateful to have been permitted a £¾m bridging loan from the Diocese. It is possible we can arrange with a developer for it to be paid for in stages hence reducing our dependency on the borrowed funds (£37k pa interest). Any church moving forward needs to take risks but the lawyers are in the process of making the legal paperwork water-tight for the joint venture.</p> <p>Finally, a comment was made from the floor concerning the vibrant Church we have - evidenced by the number of young children joining Canon Eddie for his homily on the altar; additionally an offer of thanks for all that the Committee has done so far on behalf of the Parishioners. Replying through the Chair it was suggested it would be good for Parishioners to have another forum through which they could meet regularly through the year to discuss matters affecting them; additionally, as a Committee, we would be pleased to have things brought to our attention by the community.</p>	
8	Close of Meeting by Canon Eddie with a prayer.	
9	Date of next PPC meeting: Monday, 23 June 2008 at 8pm at No 3 Windhill.	

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Chairman

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Date