**The Roman Catholic Parish of Ss. Peter & Michael**

 **Woolston in the Warrington and Widnes Deanery** 

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); C G; J M; T H; G A; T O; J W; G T; C W; T F; T W (Treasurer); P D; K L; J J G; V M

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

J L G welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the opening prayer.

**2 Apologies**

R H; M H 1; M H 2

**3 Chair Introduction and Matters Arising From Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th October 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M said that weekend Mass attendances in October 2023 were an average of 127 parishioners attending Mass, down 6.5% on September 2023 and down 6% on October 2022. J M said the attendances were only about 59% of pre Covid-19 levels. J M said that the fall off in the Mass attendances was similar to that seen in the archdiocese and countrywide.

The Parish Council agreed the Christmas Mass Times as – 6.30pm on Saturday, 23rd December 2023;11am and 6.30pm family Mass on Christmas Eve; Midnight Mass with Carols and Mass at 11am on Christmas Day; 12.00pm on Boxing Day; No Mass on Wednesday, 27th December 2023 and Thursday, 28th December 2023; Mass at 9.30am on Friday, 29th December 2023. Normal Mass times resume the weekend after Christmas, except on New Year’s Day with Mass at 12.00pm.

The Parish Council agreed that the Christmas decorations and crib could be put up after 11am Mass on Sunday, 17th December 2023. The Jesse Tree would also be set up as in previous years.

Fr. M D asked about progress with the resumption of the Children’s Liturgy and J L G confirmed that he had spoken to St. Peter’s School and they had agreed to raise the matter with parents at the school.

J L G raised the matter of reaching out to parishioners, particularly those who found it difficult to come to Mass. The Parish Council agreed that this matter should be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**5 Winter Wonderland**

This event would take place on Friday, 24th November 2023 linking the School and local community with the parish.

J L G confirmed that the ‘With Love, Steph’ charity would assist with the set-up of the event. There would be a cake stall, Christmas carols, a barbecue, a Christmas market feel to the event with ambient lighting and it was hoped to set up some speakers to provide music to the church grounds. The Parish Council also would look into licensing issues so that alcoholic drinks could be served from one of the stalls.

There would be no entry charge to the event with everyone welcome including friends and family. The event would be publicised in the Church Bulletin, on the church website and at the School. The proceeds of the day would be split 50:50 between the chosen charity and parish funds.

**6 AOB**

Church Maintenance

T H said that he had taken the plans to modernise the existing kitchen in the church house providing a new private dining area for Fr. M D, to a kitchen company. They had quoted a sum of £8,675 to do the work including new white goods. T H said he would speak to the dean, Fr. D H, to see if he could get the go ahead for the work to proceed as quoted. If agreed, he hoped that the works could commence early in the New Year, as the old kitchen would have to be taken out and this would cause considerable disruption in the church house if started over the Christmas period.

T H also advised the Parish Council that he was aware of some recent changes to Fire Regulations, but it would be a matter for the Archdiocese Health and Safety officer at LACE to contact the parish if any action was needed.

Piety Stall

A team had been established to help run the church piety stall. J L G had met with B G to let her know about the new ideas for running the piety stall. C W had already acquired some new stock from the visit to the convent at Thicket Priory.

The Parish Council agreed that a ‘pop-up stall’ approach could be adopted with stands that could be put away when the piety stall was not in use. C W said she would look into acquiring some suitable stands. A note about the new piety stall would be put in the Church Bulletin and website. The piety stall could then be set up at St. Peter’s School’s Christmas Fayre, Winter Wonderland event and at tea and toast in the millennium room.

Christmas Fayre

The Parish Council agreed to host a table again at St. Peter’s School’s Christmas Fayre. Flyers would be printed with the Christmas Mass Times and there would be a box of chocolates provided for handing out chocolates with the flyers.

**7 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 4th December 2023 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**8 Close**

The meeting closed at 7.55pm with a prayer led by Fr. M D.