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

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

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

**Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair) J M (Vice Chair); Fr. M D; M F (Secretary); T H; G A; T O; J W; M W; G T; K L; V M; M H 2; C G; P D; T F; C W 2; I W; C H; J J

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

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

**2 Apologies**

M H 1; C W 1; T W

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

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th February 2024 was accepted by the Parish Council with the exception that a request for ‘The Parish trip to Lourdes’ to be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Parish Council was omitted. The Parish Council agreed that the ‘Parish trip to Lourdes’ would be discussed at this meeting as an item in AOB.

J L G said the ‘Springtime Sizzle’ social event held as part of the ‘Reaching Out’ initiative was a great success, with an amazing turnout, in good weather and raised over £700 on the day for charity. J L G thanked everyone who contributed on the day. There were no other matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

J M said that weekend Mass attendances in February 2024 were an average of 143 parishioners attending Mass, whilst this was down 4.9% on January 2024 it was up 8.7% on February 2023. J M said that the year on year increase was very encouraging.

J M said that the three new Eucharistic ministers had been out visiting parishioners with existing Eucharistic ministers and would soon be allowed to make visits to parishioners on their own. J M also confirmed that the parish had a new altar server.

The Parish Council also agreed to set up the Easter Garden on Friday, 22nd March 2024 but have this covered over with a cloth on Good Friday.

**5 Children’s Liturgy**

J M said that he had discussed safeguarding issues with D B the parish safeguarding representative, and she confirmed that she had checked the rules with the safeguarding team at LACE. They confirmed that those volunteering to help with the Children’s Liturgy would need a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check as one is needed for each role undertaken by an individual.

J M said helpers are coming forward but we just needed to agree some dates when the Children’s Liturgy could start once the DBS checks had been completed. St Peter’s school confirmed they would write to parents with the dates once they have been agreed.

**6 Progress on ‘Reaching Out’**

J L G and T F had designed a leaflet which now needed to contain dates of ‘reaching out’ events in the parish. The Parish Council agreed that the dates of cakes on the lawn should be included in the leaflet.

A soup and sandwich event on the first Monday or Friday in the month could be introduced, not necessarily linked to a church service, but this would depend on the demand for such an event. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**7 Families of Parishes Events**

M H 2, K L and J M had attended a meeting of the Synodal Deanery Council on behalf of the parish. They advised the Parish Council that one of the initiatives discussed at the meeting was to hold Families of Parishes events to build links between the parishes in the deanery. The first event would be Stations of the Cross at St Stephen’s at 10am on Saturday, 23rd March 2024. M H 2 suggested that parishioners could be offered a lift to St Stephen’s from St Peter’s on that day on an ad hoc basis if they did not have any transport, as this might encourage them to attend the service.

The second event would be a walk from St Oswald’s to St Peter’s on Sunday, 12th May 2024. The details of the event needed finalising, but The Parish Council agreed that it could include a presentation on the history of St Peter’s, a Service and refreshments with tea and cakes at the end of the walk.

**8 Legion of Mary PPC**

Fr. M D said that he has spoken to the Legion of Mary and agreed that the date of the Legion of Mary Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) in the parish would start on Saturday 1st June 2024 and end on Saturday, 8th June 2024. The Legion of Mary would send 10 people to the parish, so they would need accommodation of a room in the homes of ten families in the parish. They would require bed and breakfast only and pay £100 for the week to each family. The parish would provide a light supper in the evening.

Fr M D said a list would be put up at the back of church for parishioners to add their names if they were interested in providing the accommodation for the Legionaries.

**9 AGM**

The Parish Council agreed to hold the AGM, which comprises a review of the business of the Parish Council over the last twelve months, a brief financial statement and re-election of the committee, at 6.45pm before the next meeting of the Parish Council on 15th April 2024.

**10 AOB**

Lourdes

GA asked about two youths requesting if the parish could fund their visit to Lourdes this year. In one case Fr. M D said that he would require a letter of motivation and request from them and in the other case we would make enquiries to Animate Youth about what became of the Lourdes funds raised in the year that the trip to Lourdes was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Bibles for the St Peter’s school children

The Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of £509.66 for providing bibles for children at St Peter’s primary school due to a change in the education curriculum.

Maintenance Issues

M W said that the church building was showing signs of subsidence. The memorial garden wall also needed a repair. T H said he would contact the Archdiocese surveyor to have a look at these issues.

**11 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 15th April 2024 following the AGM which commences at 6.45pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**12 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm with a prayer led by Fr. M D.