

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART, ST IVES

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Steering Group held on
Monday, 8th February at 19.30**

Present: Father Paul, Linda Elsom, Sean O'Farrell, Michael Sanderson, Merinda Polvere, (Secretary), Terry Cahill, Don Wade, Victoria Redwood, Ellen Kemp

Fr Paul led the opening prayers.

1. **Apologies** –Ciara Baker
2. **Minutes of Meeting of 7th December 2010**

These were accepted as a true record.

3. **Matters arising**

(a) *Election of Chairman*

Michael welcomed Don to the committee. Michael explained that we have decided to do a rota for the chairman. Linda Elsom volunteered to be chairman at the next steering group meeting. The chairman should liaise with Merinda about the agenda.

(b) *Mass Members*

Fr Paul confirmed that Elizabeth Barker has resigned as the 11am representative. We need to get another representative from the 11am mass. Merinda needs to put a note into the newsletter to ask for another representative from the 11am mass and for them to contact Terry for further information.

ACTION: Merinda

Ellen Kemp is representing the finance and buildings committee at the meeting. Ellen is now chairman of the finance and buildings committee taking over from Patrick Landucci.

(c) *Top panel of the door*

Fr Paul confirmed that the door is now complete and a new closer has been fitted which stops it slamming.

(d) *The Sacristy*

The post of the Sacristan has been filled by Paul Bishop who has taken over from Reg Coleman who has retired after 14 years. Paul has arranged a rota of four willing volunteers who are going to look after the linen on a monthly rota.

The sacristy has had a clear out and there are a few items that we will be selling on.

(e) *Car park*

Fr Paul explained that his cousin is a civil engineer who has had a look at the car park. We could put down gravel, however this would be a temporary solution for maybe 6 months. The problem we have is drainage. The British planning laws preclude us from tarmac the whole of the car park because the original planning permission is known as a drought garden. If we tarmac we would have to apply for planning permission to change the use of the car park. It would make sense to spend money and look at some sort of drainage i.e. digging some kind of trench in the middle of the car park then gravel over that. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Finance and Buildings Committee. Ellen explained that one of the things they are looking at with the photovoltaic scheme is that we fell the Sycamore tree which will have an impact on the car park area and therefore it would be a good idea that we wait and see if the scheme is going ahead as we do not want to ruin any good work that we may have done. We also need to consider disability parking spaces. It was agreed that this matter should be flagged up as urgent at the F&BC.

ACTION: F&BC

(f) *Insulation in House Roof*

The Build Centre was doing insulation for a £1 a roll. Fr Paul and Rob put some more insulation in the roof. It has made a huge difference.

(g) *Hall*

The hall is being decorated next week so it will be out of action all week.

(h) *BBQ*

Fr Paul commented that last year we had a very successful BBQ and was wondering if we should repeat the BBQ this year say on 20th June which seems to be free. If we want to organise something like this again then we need to get the ball rolling on that now. A bouncy castle may be a good idea. Merinda to check with Alison the town clerk to check if anything is going on in the town that day. Ellen suggested that we have something like the town trail that was very successful last year. It was decided that Michael, Don and Terry, would meet to discuss an action plan for this event.

4. Parish Open Meeting

Fr Paul explained that the open meeting is a group that look at how we as a parish plan for the decreasing availability at the present time of the role of the priest within parish life. The group has met twice and will report to the May open meeting with what is going on in the parish; they are looking at a time line to take us up to 2030. Very good group with very useful conversations. Next open meeting: 25th May 2010.

5. Any Other Business

(a) Finance and Buildings Committee

Ellen explained that the Finance and Buildings Committee met in January when Patrick Landucci the chairman of the committee stepped down together with Elizabeth Barker and Brian O'Neil. Four new members were welcomed into the group: Audrey Anthony, Brian Fernandes, John Murrey, David Martynski.

We have now changed banks from Lloyds to Natwest in order to avoid bank charges. We will save £700 a year now we have moved to Natwest.

The parish have undertaken to look at repairing the brickwork that needs doing in the belcote. We need to get permission from the local authority to do this. Ellen to write to Rob the maintenance man, asking him to do this.

Photovoltaic

The parish has had the development study done. In this document it outlines the viability of the project and that is to install photovoltaic panels on the south facing aspect of the hall roof. However it will cost around £8,468 plus VAT. The parish are looking to secure capital monies to undertake the scheme. Initially the parish were looking at securing 50% funding from two organisations the first called CSEP. The work will be scrutinised by CSEP and it will then go before a panel for a decision on 15th March. We should have a result by the end of March as to whether we have been awarded 50% of the capital monies. The second organisation is LCPB, however they have stopped funding, particularly for this technology. Andrew Robertson the person that undertook the study is monitoring the situation fortnightly as he has seen this happen before when they have not got money and then they do. However in the meantime we are looking at other sources of funding. The parish will be responsible for picking up the cost of sundry items which include planning applications, cost of felling the tree. The tree needs to come down in order for this scheme to be viable we would lose productivity as the tree would cast a shadow over the panel. If the scheme goes ahead we will generate electricity that will save electricity usage. From 1st April this year the government are introducing a "feeding tariff" so any extra electricity that we generate can be passed to the National Grid and we will then

be paid for the use of the electricity that we use and for the amount sold to the National Grid. The development study illustrated that we could save around £40,000 in energy costs. There are other places we can look at. We do not qualify for a BIFFA award because we have to be within 10 miles of a landfill site which we are not. The next meeting of the finance and buildings committee is on 26th April, where the matter will be discussed further.

(b) *Northstowe*

Ellen explained that Northstowe is a new town development, which will be within this parish. On 1st December Northstowe was short listed for eco town proposals. Northstowe will now be coming back on the agenda. Fr Paul commented that the small group we have who are looking at 'the way forward' have Northstowe on their agenda. The development is due to start in 18 months to 2 years. Northstowe will have a major impact as it will bring approximately 250 practicing Catholics within the parish. As part of the development of Northstowe, they will be building a centre where each domination will have access.

6. Date of Next Meeting

19th April 2010 at 19.30 in the Presbytery.