

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE PATELEY BRIDGE  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 – VIA MS TEAMS – 1900-2020**

In attendance – Fr Pearce, Charles Beange, Mary Philpott, Ros Bowers, Pat Weatherer, Dennis Barber, Harold Batten, Angela Jones, Gerry Mass, Lawrence Sherrington.

Apologies - Dorota Beange, Joe O'Mahony, Phil and Patrice Lyth, Richard and Marion Kelly, Rita Ringshall, Sir Paul Kennedy and Virginia Kennedy, Irene McDonald.

1. Minutes of the following two previous meetings were approved.

18/02/2020 – Ordinary PC meeting

03/12/2020 - Special PC Meeting

2. Matters arising – these were dealt with under specific headings during the meeting.

3. Resignations:

Charles Beange as Chairman – accepted by Fr. Maurice 25th May

Sir Paul Kennedy as Vice chairman - accepted by Chairman 25th May.

Fr Pearce said that a big “thank you” was due to Charles for the tremendous work he had carried out during the period of the pandemic and proposed a vote of thanks.

4. Finance

The financial year to the end of March 2020 has been unusual - more probably - unique. Cash offertories in the previous 2019/20 financial year were almost £5,600 plus some £700 for Christmas and Easter offerings; in the 2020/21 financial year they amounted to zero.

However, monthly Standing Orders have been largely maintained, with the figure of £11,800 in 2019/20 almost matched at £11,300 in the last financial year. Web based and telephone offertories of over £800 make up for this shortfall in full. I personally believe that the continued financial support offered by parishioners represents a strong underlying commitment to the parish that is to be broadly lauded.

The balance sheet for 2021/22 will be significantly affected by the lack of the Gift Aid tax refund on cash donations in 2020/21, but a Coronavirus-induced staffing issue at the Diocese Finance Department means that some 2020/21 Gift Aid tax refunds will be credited in 2021/22, alleviating this situation somewhat.

Our parish also continues to benefit from the contribution from Bishop Thornton amounting to over £500 per quarter, and, let's face it – they can afford it!! On an even brighter note, total net expenditure in the last financial year was much less than the previous year, some £9,700 compared to £28,500 in 2019/20. This reduction is largely due to much reduced repair and maintenance costs (c. £10,000 reduction – just can't get good tradesmen in), a reduction in travel costs (local shops and off license are within walking distance of the presbytery) and an adjustment to clergy costs.

In summary, net income of around £16,000 combined with net outgoings of some £9,700 resulted in a net profit for the parish of some £6,300 for the year. This, combined with the transfer of some clergy related payments to the Diocese, means that our Current Account balance has effectively increased from £8,974 at the end of the 2019/20 financial year to £17,205 at the end of the 2020/21

financial year. We have proposed to repay back to the Diocese some of this excess in order to help reduce the overall Diocesan debt burden.

Such an overall financial performance, in the face of one of the greatest threats to the parish since the first half of the sixteenth century, is to be wholly and individually commended.

Eugene Hassett has left £2000 to the parish in his will which will appear in this years' accounts.

Fr. Pearce said he had received the bill for the repairs to the boiler in the church which had yet to be paid. However, bills for the roof repairs and work on the trees have been paid.

Ros pointed out that Jackie Foley had also left a substantial amount of money to the "Friends of Pateley Bridge Parish" charity which had been set up by Brian Wood. This was available for capital works on the church rather than routine maintenance or running costs. Ros said that her bequest should be noted and her contribution recognised.

5. A call for volunteers was to be made for maintaining the following;

Parish Bulletin - Eventbrite support - Parish website.

The request was to be added to the Bulletin along with a job description of the different roles.

In addition, the posts of Chair and Vice-chair need to be filled. They will be advertised in the Bulletin and nominations requested. Nominations to be submitted by June 21<sup>st</sup>.

6. Coronavirus restrictions.

As we are the smallest church in the diocese, it was agreed that we had to retain all of the current precautions. Status quo to be maintained until June 21<sup>st</sup>.

7. Governance

Safeguarding – Fr. Pearce explained the role of the safeguarding officer in general terms. Lawrence will meet Dorota to discuss the role and see if he can take it on.

Data Protection – The Sick List to be maintained according to DPA principles.

Health and Safety – Richard was not aware of any H/S issues at present. However, Gerry mentioned that something needs to be done about some of the kneelers.

8. Maintenance/Works

Disposal of garden waste after Marion's extraordinary efforts of the last year. Marion had done a fantastic job last year but as a result there was a large amount of green waste to be disposed of. Phil and Dennis would begin next Saturday to start the process of disposal.

A Gardening Day has been arranged for July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Repairs / redecoration after water damage. Although Fr. Pearce had been advised to leave the water damage to dry out so it could be sanded over and then painted, Charles mentioned that something would need to be done about the fungus growths that had appeared and that we needed to obtain estimates for the work. Dennis and Phil would obtain costings.

Ros said that the sacristy was in a terrible state. Plaster was coming off and the windows also needed attention. Ros also asked whether the diocese could provide money to help with that – apparently the man who had carried out work for Fr. Walsh worked for the diocese.

Fr. Pearce also pointed out that the house was leaking at the front daleside view.

Charles pointed out that we needed to create a log of work that needed to be done on the house and in the church – Dennis would take this on.

In view of the amount and nature of some of the work, Lawrence asked whether some of it might come under the heading of capital works so that the charity might be able to provide some money.

Chase plumber re outstanding boiler invoice.

The bill for the repairs to the boiler in the church had been received, but not the one for the repairs to the boiler for the house. Carl Miller to be chased.

9. Social – No action pending the government's decision in June.

10. Garden – Gardening Day for July 10<sup>th</sup>.

11. Election of new Officers. A call for nominations will appear in the Bulletin as above. Lawrence to continue as secretary.

12. Any other Business. Dennis said there was a midday mass in a field in Stean on June 3<sup>rd</sup> but that numbers were limited.

13. Dates of next meeting – Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.