

Minutes of the Meeting of St Robert of Newminster Parish Pastoral Council held on Monday 16th October 2023

The meeting started at 7pm with a prayer from the Chair, Michael Quincey.

Apologies were received from Lynda Edwards (she actually arrived shortly).

Present: Anne Wilson, John Carr, Marian Bell, Anne Beattie, Tracey Stevenson, Chris Smith, Maura Illingworth, Barry Lehane, Michael Quincey, Simon Conroy, Father Peter, Ruth Higginbottom, Lynda Edwards.

This meeting is for parishioners who accepted to take on an area of mission responsibility of the Parish Council. (to be called co-ordinators).

Father Peter gave out the latest information on the template used earlier in the year. These new arrangements will identify what is being done and what needs to be addressed. A decision needs to be made on the best way to feedback to the Parish Pastoral Council. This will ensure that the parish keeps working if Father Peter is unable to fulfil his mission for any reason.

Michael sees the co-ordinators as conduits to the Parish Council from the different areas to ensure that a coherent system is in place and no area is neglected. This will preserve the integrity of the mission of the laity in the parish community.

More people are now involved. Parishioners need to have feedback. The process needs to be transparent, to represent the parish and be open to the general parish.
Action: Minutes of the meeting need to be publish.

Social media could be used as well as hard copies on the notice board.

Father Peter went through the document highlighting who are already responsible for the different activities in the parish. Some areas are well organised others need attention.

Liturgical and Spiritual Support

This area is well organised.

Pastoral Support

There is no Ecumenical Outreach, at the moment, such as a formal Churches Together organization.

Catechetical, Sacramental Preparation and Support and Ongoing Formation

There is nothing in place to support families once their children have left St Robert's First School. If we had a primary school there would be longer

contact. It was pointed out that when the school was originally built plans for extensions were included. Father Peter has written to the Diocesan Director of Education expressing his concern at the lack of Catholic Education for the Middle School age pupils.

Action: to be discussed at the next parish pastoral council (dream for the parish). Invite Mr Sutcliffe.

Children, Young People and School Support

Do we need a young person to join this group?

Social Activities

No one is coordinating this section but lots of activities are taking place.

Action: to find some one willing to take on this area.

Mission & Evangelisation/Justice& Peace and the Environment

Mission outreach is better organised than Justice and Peace and the Environment. This will be the next major input with the partnership.

Communications in the Parish

The parish website is being revamped. Communication is so important. Attendees at the 9am and 11am Masses are not meeting. Alternate means of communicating for those not on social media is necessary

Action: a social gathering, possibly on the Feast of St Robert next year.

Parish Administration; Safeguarding; Health and Safety; Maintenance of buildings and grounds.

Areas are being addressed.

The co-ordinators are asked to be proactive to make contact with the people responsible for the activities in their areas. They should provide a few lines on each to present to the parish council meetings.

Action: the secretary will collate the reports.

Action: an information handout will be produced linking the areas and activities so people know who is responsible. This may encourage others to become involved.

Next Steps

Father Peter to let congregations know of the progress made since July.

The meeting finished at 8:30pm with a prayer and thanks for attendance,.

Minutes taken by Ruth Higginbottom

Date of Next Meeting: 27th November at 7pm