

Christ the King Parish Centre
MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Monday 27th September 2021

Present: Chris Raymond (CR), John O'Neill (JO),
Bernie Birch (BB), Margaret Godwin (MG), Chris (CM) &
Damian McLean (DM) , Father Louis (FL)

Apologies: Babs Williamson (Secretary),

Resignation: Mary Buchanan (agreed to send flowers on behalf of the group together with a letter to thank her for her efforts for the parish over many decades)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

It was agreed that there was little value in discussing these in view of the time that has elapsed and the significant change in circumstances that has occurred in the interim.

2. Chairman's Report

Chris had nothing to report but took the opportunity to thank everyone for attending and to offer a warm welcome to Father Louis and to introduce various members of the group to him.

4. Treasurer's report

£5433 in the bank but with bills still due for various routine safety checks totalling £6-700. This is a better situation than anticipated at the start of the pandemic due to Father Thomas maintaining his monthly standing order, Scouts continuing to pay rent for 7 months and JO being furloughed as part of the government scheme. Scouts are continuing to pay for the phone line / internet access and some hall hire income is slowly resuming as groups start to return to activity. There will however be no income for the foreseeable future from private parties (usually £800 – 1000 per year) as these are not currently permitted within the terms of the hall insurance post Covid.

Gas and electric costs are set on a tariff that is fixed until June / Sept 2022 but it is anticipated that these will rise significantly when renegotiated. Overall therefore, income is just about adequate to cover our fixed costs for the next 8-12 months but consideration will then have to be given to an increase in hall hire charges.

Revenue for the hall improvement / development fund is generated from the 50/50 club and the paper recycling arrangement. The paper scheme provides about £800 per year though this has been slowly declining for some time. The 50/50 club provides about £1500 net income and renewals for this are due soon

with various group members today agreeing to distribute the letters regarding this to avoid postal costs.

JO proposed that the improvement project for this year should be the purchase of a defibrillator for the parish hall. This would cost around £1500. Though there is such a device in the church and also the scout store neither would be readily or rapidly available in an emergency and the one belonging to scouts is specifically for a child with rare cardiac problems. All were generally supportive of this proposal though BB suggested seeing if the British heart Foundation would be able to donate a device.

5. Going forward

FL thanked all for their efforts in maintaining the hall during the Covid crisis. He requested that the group should be renamed as he felt the term committee was too formal and rigid. After some discussion it was agreed that we will become the Parish Hall Support Group.

FL stressed that whilst he was keen to make more use of the hall, he recognised that a number of groups had fixed block bookings on certain nights and that it was important to protect and preserve these. In response, BB stated that with sufficient warning the scout groups would always be willing to be flexible about moving their meetings for special events. FL stated that he was keen to use the hall as much as possible for film nights, confirmation groups, catechists etc and had identified Mondays and some Thursdays for this purpose.

6. Covid measures

JO presented his proposals for hall use going forward with Covid. JO's concerns and plans were based on Diocesan advice and, mindful that Church had been coping with Covid for 15 months, felt a cautious start was advisable in the Hall as it was more of a social setting and therefore closer contact would occur between individuals. All groups have had risk assessments in relation to their activities and he suggested this should be the strict policy for all other planned meetings. A long debate ensued on the need to counterbalance a rules based system of hall usage with common sense.

CR felt very strongly that the main role of the Hall Support Group should be to ensure the hall environment in terms of signage, sanitiser provision and ventilation was as good as possible but that we should not be unduly prescriptive in terms of social distancing and mask use in relation to Covid. These latter issues, as now mandated by HMG, are for people to make individual judgements on. CR felt it would be especially impractical and unreasonable to insist on mask wearing by adults running Scout groups and mums & tots.

MG made the point that some groups and individuals would be more reassured and encouraged to use the hall if strict Covid protocols were seen to be in place

and whilst this was accepted it was also argued that some would be put off coming into the hall by these same measures.

In view of JO's concerns but also acknowledging that there were alternate views within the group it was agreed that JO and FL would hold further discussions with appropriate diocesan officers around this issue.

7. Other business

JO suggested possibly painting the back meeting room during October half term. DM may be available to assist.

Next meeting – Provisionally mid January 2022 – date to be set later this year depending on Covid situation & how hall use progresses into autumn.

Dist: All present and absent, Church notice board