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

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

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

**Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**:

J L G (Chair); M F (Secretary); C G; M H 1; T H; G A; T O; J W; G T; C W; T F; M H; T W (Treasurer); P D

**1 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

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

**2 Apologies**

Fr. M D; R H; J M; J J G; V M; K L

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

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4th September 2023 was accepted by the Parish Council. There were no matters arising except those featured on the agenda.

**4 Liturgy**

T H read out a note from J M that said that weekend Mass attendances in September 2023 were an average of 137 parishioners attending Mass, about the same as August 2023 but down 7.2% on September 2022. In the note J M said the attendances were only about 66% of pre Covid-19 levels.

Also in his note, J M had added that three new Eucharistic Ministers, G L, C W and M P, attended the training day for Eucharistic Ministers in Liverpool on Saturday, 30th September 2023. P D and R H would have liked to attend, but were not available on that date. They could be included at a later date.

M H 1 advised the Parish Council that she had contacted Fr. D H about the confirmations meeting on Friday, 8th September 2023, which she was unable to attend. Fr. D H said that he would ensure that the parish was included in the preparations being made for confirmations next year. M H 1 said she would contact L J, the chaplain at Cardinal Newman High School to ask her to notify the children at the school about enrolling for the 2024 confirmation programme.

J L G said that the Season of Creation 2023 which ended on 4th October 2023 went well and K L’s soup kitchen raising funds for CAFOD was a success. The MacMillan coffee morning raised £500 even though the attendance was lower than in previous years.

Fr. M D had now received a proposal from S O about the resumption of the Children’s Liturgy. This could also help increase the numbers of families returning to Mass.

The request would continue to be made for volunteers to run the little church in the church bulletin and on the website. M H 1 suggested inviting the second and third years at St Peter’s School to get involved as they prepare to start their Eucharistic Programme.

**5 Winter Wonderland**

As an alternative church event, to replace the bonfire event, which will now be held at St. Peter’s School, J L G suggested the parish hold an Autumn/Winter Parish Event similar to a Christmas Market Event in the church grounds. The Parish Council agreed that the event be called ‘Winter Wonderland’ and provisionally agreed that the event could take place on Friday, 24th November 2023. The event could link the School, local community and Deanery to the parish.

J L G said he could involve the team from ‘With Love, Steph’ charity to help on the day. He had worked with this charity before and highly recommended them. The charity would brand the event as fund raising for the ‘With Love, Steph’ charity but also they would split the money raised 50:50 with the parish’s fund raising for Lourdes.

The ‘Winter Wonderland’ evening would comprise; mince pies, hot pot or barbecue, mulled wine, a craft stall, tombola, kids games. The gazebos could be set up in the church grounds and they could be lit up and there would also be carol singing. The event would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

T H confirmed that the church would once again be lit up on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023 for Red Wednesday.

**6 AOB**

Church Maintenance

T H had now drawn up some plans to modernise the existing kitchen in the church house and provide a new private dining area for Fr. M D in a more cost effective way than the Archdiocese proposal which was considered too expensive. Tony now just needed the plan costing out to take this matter forward.

Church Rotas

M H 1 said she had prepared the parish rota for tea and toast in the millennium room on a weekly basis from 15th October 2023.

Cakes on the Lawn

In previous years the money raised from cakes on the lawn had gone to charities chosen by the parish. T W confirmed that the money raised from this year’s Cakes on the Lawn was ring-fenced so that it could again be given to charities chosen by the parish.

Church trip to Thicket Priory

C W confirmed that the cost was £15.50 per parishioner payable ten days before the trip to the convent on 4th November 2023. There was a full coach of 55 parishioners going on the parish trip. A note would be put in the church bulletin and website reminding those parishioners going on the trip to make payment by 18th October 2023.

**7 Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Millennium Room on Monday, 6th November 2023 at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

**8 Close**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm with a prayer led by J L G.