



St. Francis' Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2012

Present: Tony Berkeley, Terry Enga, Peter Hermon, Ann Higgins, Sue Meese, Sue Roche, Father Tom Taaffe.

Building and Finance: Some progress has been made regarding the sale of the plot of land in North Ascot. Developers have been approached and the best offer, to date, has come in at £2,333,000. However, it has to be remembered that a portion of any monies raised will need to be paid to the Crown, the original owners, as in the covenant. It was agreed that we need to be sure that the Diocese understands that it is the will of the parish that the necessary repairs are carried out to keep the church open, not just a few very vocal parishioners. The Diocese has been approached for a bridging loan so that the repairs to the roof can be completed before the weather deteriorates any further, although this may be dependent on the sale of the land. Unfortunately, any sale, especially to developers, could take anything up to two years to complete.

So far £12,000 has been donated and a further £6,800 in covenants. However it has been estimated that repairs to the roof, which is the priority, and to the floor will cost £100,000 + VAT. A project manager will be appointed and at least three quotes obtained.

It was suggested that if the sale of the land is successful then any donations can be returned. However, we still need to maintain the buildings and so we will need to increase the income of the church. To this end it has been suggested that the church introduces a fee for the use of the church as per the attached sheet.

Parish Groups: We were reminded of Father's working plan for a good parish council, see attachment 2, with communication at the centre. Co-operation is essential, all views must be heard, disagreement recognised but fragmentation avoided. However, it may not be possible to answer every question that arises. Good communication is vital. This is easier in small groups, thus we now have group co-ordinators. See attachment 3.

Guidelines are already in place for the Altar server, Baptism and Marriage groups.

A.O.B. Unfortunately Wende wishes to resign from her position as Parish secretary. A job specification will be drawn up and the position advertised. Rate of pay and hours and days will be agreed at a later date. Utmost confidentiality will be expected.