

St. Joseph's Parish Council Meeting  
Held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2007

Chairman: Fr. Ross Thompson. Thirteen members attended.

Fr. Ross welcomed the Committee to the Meeting and opened it with a prayer.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting - Taken as read.

2. Matters Arising:

A question was asked regarding Item No. 7 – Reaching Out to the Wider Community”. We try for contact with children who are not at a Catholic school, but we don't always get a response and people fall away. Regarding “when children are Confirmed they start to leave”. Teenagers do tend to drop away, and very few who make their First Communion make Confirmation. We need to go through the list of First Communion children who are coming up for Confirmation and start doing visits. Roger would ask All Saints School if they could help with this.

The suggestion of shorter hymns at the Offertory had been followed up.

Help with the Garden. PACY are going to cut the hedges and the supervisor will oversee the people doing the job. We were given details of cost, and this would be done twice a year. There are five names on the grass cutting rota now, and Fr. Ross will get in touch with them.

Repairs and Maintenance Fr. Ross said that all but the church heating was finished, and gave details of the work done and of the cost. Some necessary work had been done in the presbytery, a new boiler would be put in which would be more economical to run. The new condensing boilers would pay back the money over a number of years. Regarding the building work on the parapet, the contractor says that quite a lot of the other pointing is in a poor condition and we should be thinking about having it done next year.

New Housing on Clifton Moor, now includes a Nursing Home, Amelia House. We have two Catholics there already who seem happily settled. SVP. will visit as well as Eucharistic Ministers. Margaret Dobson would find out where a lady at Morrell House who had been visited by SVP and Eucharistic Ministers had gone. Regarding the proposed information to be given out to Clifton Moor saying who we are and where we are, this is being worked on.

Bowling Mats There seems to be a desire to start the Bowling Club again, but no one is prepared to put the mats down. Fr. Ross would put a notice in the Bulletin to see if anyone is interested in re-forming the Bowling Club. If there were enough people interested it could be started up again.

The Table Tennis tables had gone to Youth Team Centres in Skelton and Rawcliffe.

3. Report from Organisations. The SVP. are flourishing and have retained all the new members. John Coxon had offered to do repairs to the decoration in someones flat.

Ladies Group – Hilary said that 14 members attended. Activities include: Lenten Lunch. Holy Saturday buffet. Stations of Cross tea and biscuits. SVP Apple Pie Supper, Cake Stalls to pay for the Children's Liturgy books. The HCPT have a Lottery and the group have sent a year's contribution of £24 for two lots of numbers which are drawn each month. First Communion are coming up and we would be involved in that, and give a gift to each child. Roger asked if the Ladies group would like a guided tour of York. Hilary said that would go down well. We do have social evenings in each others homes and the occasional meal out together.

Liturgy Group –Mary Luker. There are now only eight children in the group, and it is hard to do anything meaningful. The children leave the group when they make their First Holy Communion. Was it possible to put something together for the parents of the children?

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Eucharistic Ministers. We need more Ministers especially for going out to the sick. Fr. Ross said something would go in the Bulletin. We have a list of thirteen Eucharistic Ministers, which contains only three men.

Readers – we had two dates for a Readers' evening, which had to be cancelled, but we do hope to have one in the near future.

We now have 'No Smoking' signs on the outside of the church and hall. There is a £2,000 fine for not showing these.

We need a separate wheelie bin in the hall. Eileen will ask for one of the bigger bins and a green bin. Fr. Ross would like one of the bigger bins for the church and presbytery.

4. Travelling the Borderlands. – Pat read Shirley's report to the meeting. The aim is to give encouragement to clergy and parishioners to positively deal with inevitable future change.
  - . People matter more than buildings. Every Parish is unique, therefore there is no 'one size fits all' to help with future change. Each Parish has to: identify it's strengths; give encouragement; build confidence; be honest about viability; respect each other. The big change will be when we merge with St. Wilfrid's which Fr. Ross thought would be before his retirement.
5. Car Parking Fr. Ross thanked Theresa for the computer list of names, addresses and details in the List of Talents. Results of the Survey were - Thirty cars at 5.15 pm. Saturday Mass, Fifty cars at 9.30 am. Mass The Meeting was asked if we wanted to take this further? The following points were made:- It is difficult to get by parked cars on Burdyke Avenue, but the grass verge was wide, so would it be possible for the Council to make a lay-by? We would need planning permission for a car park. We didn't think the Council would allow access in and access out, on Burdyke Ave. Possibly we could have access out by way of Sutton Way but we still wouldn't have room for fifty cars in the church grounds. We must also give consideration to our neighbours. Perhaps we ought to ask Citizens Advice Bureau what options are available to us. It should be possible for something to be done, because if it was a new building, a car park would be part of the planning. It would cut down on the grass cutting, but would ruin the look of the building. We have a wide road on the other side of Burton Green, which was widened for buses. Of course, it is not just church traffic that is a problem, a lot of people in Burdyke also park on the road. Saturday and Sunday traffic is not heavy so it does not cause too big a problem. It was suggested having a word with the Council, and Roger offered to go with Fr. Ross when he did so.
6. Summer Fete – 7<sup>th</sup> July Theresa Caddy, Hilary Topham, Liz Boyes and Pat Dowling would share responsibility for co-ordinating the event. Lists would be put at the back of church for names of parishioners who would help on the stalls, or provide prizes, baking, etc. There would be meetings in the near future. There is a list of stalls and of people who offered to help. We also need men to help put out the tables and take them back in at the end of the day. Eileen Gray offered to get rid of the stuff which is left. Contact would be made with all the people on the list. We also need somewhere to store prizes.
7. First Holy Communions. Tina said that the parents are bringing the food on the Sunday morning. The Ladies Group would set it up and provide teas and a gift for each child.

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8. Fundraising Fr. Ross thanked Roger for the photo competition which was very enjoyable. We are thinking of doing another one in the autumn. St. Wilfrid's would like to do a joint enterprise with us, possibly a race night in September, and various names were suggested of people who might have had experience of running one. Roger asked if they were using videos, as the scouts do them with the names of actual race horses. Profits will be split 50/50. St. Joseph's and St. Wilfrid's ladies will do the supper. Do we charge for the hall? Eileen pointed out that it should not be on the last Friday in the month as the Indian Community use it then. We could extend the invitation to all the other parishes. Hilary will approach David Henderson about a Quiz Night. It was suggested that we might ask St. Wilfrid's if we could do a coffee morning one Saturday. Hilary would put that to the Ladies Group. If we wanted to book St. Crux for a fundraising day, we would have to book it this September for next year. The success of the day depended on the weather. Roger wondered if anyone had approached the Indian Community with a view to a social evening. This could be a way of all of us getting to know one another. Fr. Ross will approach them. Roger said there was no shortage of ideas for social occasions, the problem was getting people to turn out.
9. Any Other Business There were suggestions of changing where we had our Meetings, possibly in the Assembly area.

Suggestions were made of how to make our Indian parishioners feel more a part of the community. Perhaps they would help take up the collections, or come on to the various rotas eg. Eucharistic Ministers.

Therese had made enquiries about a trip to Osmotherley. There is now no one to take infirm parishioners up the long uphill lane to the church. We could join in the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Hilary suggested that we could go as a parish to the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 12<sup>th</sup> August. to celebrate The Feast of the Assumption.

It was suggested that it would occasionally be a good thing, when we give the handshake of peace, to give our name to our neighbours around us. There was a feeling this could be too much of a distraction to the Mass. Perhaps we could put name badges on, on some Sundays. Of course, the community that goes to 9.30 am. Mass is different to the Saturday evening Community. Everyone agreed that knowing peoples names and recognising one another gave a greater sense of community

The Minutes would be given to Mary sooner so that they can go on St. Joseph's web site. It would be put in the Newsletter when they were available to be picked up from the back of church.

10. Date of Next Meeting – After 9.30 am. Mass on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2007