

## St Augustine's Parish Council meeting minutes

Location:	Hartigan Centre
Date:	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022
Time:	6.30pm
Attendees:	Fr Peter, Peter Cleary, Genevieve Colbert, Sarah Johnston, Michael Van Wanrooy, Michael Green, Lourdes O'Keefe, Bryan Coleborne, Bob Nash, Annabelle O'Connell, Zuzy Webster
Guest Speakers:	None
Apologies:	None

### Agenda items

- Tour of Old Convent building
  - Bob
- Acknowledgement of Country
  - Bryan
- Opening Prayer
  - Provided by Sarah, read by all present
- Discussion of Maintenance Plan following the tour
- The maintenance portfolio is always a fraught issue due to factors including
  - the steady decline over time of contributions to parish finances via Planned Giving.
  - The age of the buildings means there is a constant requirement for upkeep, and the cost of these requirements.
- Some current maintenance projects for which there is no funding were reported:
  - A fence between the church and the 'Old Convent' House would increase safety in that area to prevent a car falling into the space there
- Some estimates of costs not allowed for were reported also, most of which were in the \$thousands.
- Yass Gymnastics are vacating the Hall in June, however we have already had a few enquiries regarding its lease from some interested parties.
- Fr Peter also informed the PPC that he has approached Tony Percy, Tony Kelly and Helen Delahunty to ask them to visit the St Augustine's estate, and see for themselves the physical size of the campus. It is just too much for a small, unfinancial parish to continually maintain, especially given the first point (above).
  - Fr Peter would like the visitors to meet with the PFC to get an idea of the costs needed to run a parish with such aged buildings.

- Fr Peter also raised the point that whilst we continually need money to run, that money is necessary for the development of the spirituality of the parish also, and that doing so is just as important as looking after the maintenance requirements.
- Questions for Bob following tour/Maintenance report:
  - Does the PFC provide a Maintenance budget?
    - Yes, but the requirements are such that it is never enough. It is spent very quickly and there is always more money needed, especially for unplanned tasks, eg. The effects of the earthquake.
  - Are we eligible for Heritage grants?
    - Bob has at times approached Wendy Tuckerman's office, with some success, however the requirements for the application process are time and information intensive.
  - Has the PFC looked at how much we would be able to borrow from the CDF, in order to complete more of the upstairs projects?
    - No recent enquiries to Bob's knowledge.
    - Fr Peter commented that the CDF will look at loans on a project requirement basis.
  - Would it be possible to set up a trust type system/account/fund for the Hartigan Centre/Old Convent building?
    - This could work; it would require some legal enquiries/information.
    - **ACTION** Sarah to look into this.
  - The mention of/requirement for double glazing, water tanks, recycled timber in the Maintenance report - would this be enough to allow the upstairs being billed as Carbon Neutral/sustainable?
    - Not really, the current rating is 1. However, with the right airconditioning system, once the buildings are warmed or cooled, the temperature can be maintained due to the thickness of the walls.
    - A Solar electricity system was discussed, however it is yet another expense at this stage.
    - The point was raised that in time, as technology improves and costs lessen, solar panels may be beneficial.
  - The colour coded system of urgency of maintenance tasks was appreciated by all present. Quite a few of the most urgent tasks have been completed since Bob prepared the list.
  - The point was raised once again, that not only the cost of Maintenance is an ongoing issue, the lack of person-power attending to the work is also.
    - Fr Peter would like Bob to talk about the Maintenance work/issue at the Parish Assembly.
    - The suggestion was made to advertise for help in the Mt Carmel bulletin.
- **Lourdes O'Keefe and Michael Green excused themselves at this point due to time constraints.**
- The matter of heating the church was raised. All present were NOT in favour of purchasing a heating system for the church, with so many other pressing matters requiring funding.
  - It was noted that the 2 parties who have met with Bob regarding a heating system have both indicated that a heating system would - at best - take the chill off the air.

- It was also noted that there would be so much warm air near the church's ceiling, that a system to push it down would be just as effective as installing airconditioning, although another cost.
  - Fr Peter appreciated all present, being representatives of the parish, clearly communicating that they believe money is better spent elsewhere in the parish than on a heating system for the church, and would inform the PFC that this was the case.
- Bob concluded his report and the discussion with his notice of intent to remove himself from the responsibility of the Maintenance work, due to the need for him to care for Lois at this time. He will be available for consultation and information for roughly 6 months following.
  - We will advertise this in the bulletin, the Mt Carmel bulletin.
  - **ACTION** Sarah to draft an Ad to send to Bob for review.
- Matters arising from the previous Minutes:
- Santa at the Christmas Eve Mass was not needed, due to COVID. We did have one ready to go anyway (Steve Scroope, bless him).
- Defibrillator Unit - Not resolved.
- New urn and shadecloth for morning teas - not done as yet.
- New date for the Srs of Mercy farewell - Sarah reported that Sr Patricia has suggested a date in Spring, and that she (Sr P) will contact Sr Mary Corkeron to find a date to put to the parish.
- Heritage report for Mt Carmel Master plan from Bob - Not resolved.
- RCIA 'graduates' invitations - Sarah was not able to get in touch with Pauline (who has been unwell) or Maureen but has been going through the list of people who have completed the program and done some research of her own, and discovered some resources to assist with invitations and other information for past RCIA candidates.
  - Fr Peter commented that he is hopeful for an RCIA team to form soon, with a review of the parish resources for running RCIA.
- Use of portable EFT terminals for collections at Masses
  - Carried over from last meeting
  - Irene Carr has advised that the PFC will procure the terminal and ask the PPC for assistance with organising its use once we have it.
    - Confirmation of previous minutes:
      - moved by Michael VW, seconded by Peter C.
- Parish Assembly update
  - the organising committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb via Zoom, and we firstly needed to change the date (due to the Yass Show) to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March.
  - St Francis Xavier Gunning parish has been invited.

- advertising for the day needs to begin, along with surveys/questionnaires being undertaken to get some pre-assembly information.
- the minutes of the planning meeting are attached in a separate document.

- Discussion of Matters from reports submitted

- See below.

- AOB

- Sarah raised the question of St Augustine's displaying the Refugee Banner for Palm Sunday - all in favour.
  - Many Planned Giving envelopes have not been collected from the church, could we send them to the recipients?
    - Perhaps they have not been collected due to COVID restraints, perhaps some are now donating via EFT, with no need for the envelopes.
    - Zuzy reported that there is no communication from HQ about who is donating online and that she does not have access to this info.
    - **ACTION** Zuzy to enquire about this.
  - Annabelle and Sarah informed the council of their resignation from same, as a response to the information that Wee Jasper will be receiving a donation of \$5000 in answer to their request for \$35000.
    - Annabelle expressed her view that, by not donating the amount they asked for, which as minuted previously, is the rough estimate of the cost of building the church in 1952, we are effectively telling the Wee Jasper community that money for our parish is more important than theirs. Annabelle also noted that she believed this is not something a Christian community should do, or that Jesus would do, and she was not prepared to support any further decisions made with apparent disregard for Jesus' teaching.
    - Sarah agreed with this position and added the comment that 'every fibre of my being tells me it is wrong'. Sarah expressed her awareness of the difficulty of the decision for Fr Peter, and her regret that she and Annabelle were not able to support this particular decision, but that their deep respect for him remains.
    - Sarah also noted that no PPC member should be indispensable, and she hoped that replacement members would be found hastily.
    - Bryan volunteered to chair following meetings, and thanked Sarah for her wisdom and leadership of the PPC over her time as Chairperson.
    - The comment was made that it would be good to have a representative of the PPC attending PFC meetings and vice versa.
      - Fr Peter will take this idea to the next PFC meeting.

- **Next Meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30pm**

Discussion points/Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
<b>Ecumenism:</b> Nothing to report	Bryan		
<b>Education:</b> Nothing to report	Genevieve		
<b>Liturgy:</b> Nothing to report.	Peter C		
<b>Maintenance:</b> Much discussion. -	Bob		
<b>Mt Carmel School:</b> Nothing to report.	Michael Green		
<b>Social:</b> Nothing to report.	Lourdes		
<b>Social Justice:</b> - The Project Compassion boxes and resources are in the church ready to go for this Sunday.	Sarah		
<b>Welfare:</b> Nothing to report.	Michael Van Wanrooy		
<b>Youth:</b> No further discussion on submitted report	Annabelle		