

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST ANDREW

OUR LADY & ST ANDREW'S, GALASHIELS • ST CUTHBERT'S, MELROSE • OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH'S, SELKIRK

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Fr Nick Welsh, Administrator



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council

12th November 2019, Parish House, Galashiels

Present: Fr Nick Welsh, Janet Grierson, Peter Birney, Tony Thorpe, Gladys Purves, Colette Finnie, Colette Edie, Izabella Lipok, Steve Fox

Apologies: Jean Gibson

1. Welcome and prayer

Fr Nick opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Jean Gibson sent her apologies

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Tony Thorpe and seconded by Peter Birney.

4. Matters arising

Colette Edie made enquiries at St Catherine's Edinburgh re: parish prayer, finding out that they had written it together as a parish.

5. Election of Chair

Gladys Purves was unanimously elected as Chair of Parish Council

6. Election of Secretary

Colette Edie volunteered to be Secretary

7. Finance

An update was given on the financial situation was given. Finances are stable but long-term fundraising is essential.

8. Church Cleaning

Church cleaning in each church appears to be organised in a different way. There are teams in two of the churches but Melrose has had difficulty recruiting cleaners in the main due to an aging congregation. They have used Contract cleaners at times of main holidays (Easter and Christmas)

It was felt that it would be desirable to have teams from the Parish but in reality it would be practical to have a cleaning company perhaps 2 x cleans / year.

9. Standing Items

a. Social Colette F & Colette E

At present Colette F is organising a coffee morning in Selkirk every second Wednesday from 10 – 12 and a Soup Lunch on last Saturday of month. She also had a Christmas Bingo to raise some funds.

The following suggestions were put forward from their meeting:

A Scottish Night for the end of January in either Melrose or Selkirk Hall with music etc.

Parishioners have previously offered to play at this type of event.

Something for Shrove Tuesday (pancake evening)

Go Green for St Patrick's Day (March) – to link with Eco projects to involve families. Possibility of approaching the schools maybe having a speaker to link with other Eco events.

Other suggestions were made from the committee including a Car Boot sale in Car park,

Colette E also noted that Melrose would be putting up their Crib and Tree on Saturday from 10am – 12 noon and families would be invited to decorate a window as usual.

An appeal for others to help with Social Group will go out in the New Year. Colette E and Colette F to be available for volunteers to speak to at back of the Church but it was also felt that it would also be better to approach individuals to help.

b. Justice and Peace (Gladys & Janet)

Monthly Tradecraft stall starting in Melrose on 24th November. In order not to conflict with current card stall Gala were selling foodstuffs. There was also a suggestion that Tradecraft should happen more often in each church.

c. Fabric (Peter)

Peter has now assembled a team of people who can support his work maintaining Parish buildings etc including tradesmen, architects etc. He has a maintenance programme to cover statutory checks etc. Internally all the churches are in good condition. In the main the churches are in good condition. In Gala some work needs done on loose stones where some of the facings have been patched etc it may be mainly cosmetic work but investigation is still needed to check. In Melrose work is being done to look at the external lights to make pathways safe in the winter months. The timer for the floodlights for the cross is being looked at.

d. Rosminian Mission Link (Tony)

Tony has been in touch with the Mission in India and received a 21-page dossier. He has also been in touch with the lady in Livingston who coordinates visits etc. The main points are:

They have no outside income outside of their own parish

They are mainly low wage earners

They have committed to pray for our Parish and send someone over every year.

Tony suggested we reciprocate and pray for them on a Sunday. This was agreed and a prayer will be included in the Prayers of the Faithful every week.

Their main need are; a) a new roof, they have committed themselves to raising half the money and they used money we sent last year to support this project. B) a Land Rover or 4x4 – they are a vast Parish and have 18 masses / weekend so transport is a vital need.

It was suggested this might be something we could support and put our energies into achieving this as a priority.

Discussion around whether a regular amount should be sent or a second collection would be appropriate (not a favoured idea)

Fund Raisers were suggested: car boot sale, £1/ month from each parishioner, Bonus Ball in each church.

It was agreed that information needed to be fed back to the Finance Committee before anything was agreed.

e. Youth (Colette F & Izabella & Fr.)

The Youth Group leaders have not met yet. It was still agreed that more work needs done before this is launched.

When started the suggestion is that it will for 1 ½ hour early on a Sunday evening possibly in Melrose Hall. Other suggestions a regular Children's Mass, A Movie night, a social event.

10. AOCB

Dates of next meetings: 14 January, 10 March, 9 June.

The weekly Mass in Melrose is well attended and seems to be a good idea.

11. Fr Nick ended with prayer.