**MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 2 July 2014 at St Joseph’s Church**

**Opening Reflection:**

Fr. Danny prayer.

**Present:**

Peter Hancock (Chairman), Fr. Danny McAvoy, Catherine Collery, Mary McNab, Elizabeth Fisher Maura Holt (in attendance representing the PPC),

**Apologies:**

No apologies

**Absent:** Pradeep Kumar

**Approval of Minutes from meeting held on 01.05.2014:**

The Minutes were approved.

**Matters arising from previous meeting and Projects:**

* **Site Manager**: An allocated person was suggested and Fr said that he would rather wait until all the building work has been completed first, this was agreed. This Minute item is ongoing. John has been working on the car park. Graham has completed site maintenance, replacing bulbs, etc.
* **Bookkeeping -** Peter to work with Mary regarding this issue. Peter to contact Pradeep regarding the role of Treasurer.
* **Chairs –** Comfortable, stackable chairs were discussed, this issue is still open.
* **Lawns -** Ian has continued cutting the grass and is happy to continue. The front slope is difficult with cut with the present mower, a flymo is needed with long cable, it was agreed to purchase a Flymo. Ian has advised that the gardening equipment is up to scratch. The Chairman of the Horticultural Society has advised that they are not able to help assist with the church front garden, this item is still open.
* **Hall** – New painted areas need to be touched up with paint as damage has occurred due to the movement of furniture. Peter volunteered to complete this task. Quote for window vertical blinds has been received and order placed.
* **Staff Room/Kitchen/Toilets/Disables Facilities**: Toilet/shower by office now cleared and will become an SVP drop in room with storage cupboards, fridge, etc. This will also be the staff rest room. Completion in the next few weeks. The current ladies toilet with be made into unisex/disabled toilet, all the toilets will be made unisex. The ramp at the hall entrance is unsuitable as it is not strong or flat and is too steep. An electric lift was suggested in place of the ramp, quotes to be obtained. Also, disabled access into the Church was discussed, this item remains open. It was suggested to revamp the garage into storage space.

**Matters arising from previous meeting and Projects/continued:**

* **Upper Room** – We are now advised that the glass is not safe and must be removed and the area made good. Also, there are insufficient fire exits. Therefore, the room will not be used by the Youth.
* **Quinquennial** – Exterior painting needs to be done before the report is done.

**Projects**

* **Front of Church** – Builders have inspected the possible revamping the front of the church, it was suggested that sandblasting the stonework and cleaning the cross at the front. We may be able to source the white tiles on the front “A” frame, we discussed making a complete change to the “A” frame. It was agreed to obtain a quote for replacement of tiles from the roof line down to the ground. One of the Builders will present tiles swatches to be considered. The figure of St Joseph is copper and will need cleaning. A weekend storm caused a flood in the church/hall. The downpipe from the roof ends at the flat roof, it was suggested installing piping to divert the rainwater away from the flat roof. Also some of the guttering has weeds growing which is causing water damage. Mary to chase up the two builders with regard to quotation for tiling. It was agreed we should concentrate on the painting of all the outside during summer.

**Living our Faith**

Many discussions regarding this issue, it was agreed to proceed. Parish Pastoral Council, requested no hard sell in the parish. CCS, American fund raising company suggested by the Diocese, have approached us to organise this process and advise the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee how fund raising will be done, there is a cost involved with this process. Different approaches were discussed, i.e., a softly, softly approach to parishioners and possibly be under target or go hard sell and meet the target, but this may alienate parishioners. Target is set by the Diocese as a comparative level against similar size parishes. Crowthorne parish picked a weekend when a presentation was made at all Masses regarding Living Our Faith, then had a pledge weekend with pledge cards available for those who want to sign up, those who cannot pledge an anonymous donation box. Specific collections are also used as an approach. This was discussed. It was proposed having an exhibition in the porch for Living Our Faith, then present this to the parishioners during all Masses, leaving the donation amounts to the parishioners. This was agreed.

**Any Other Business:**

Parish Pastoral Council are requesting to organise a Mission in Sept/Oct 2015, cost is £4K and suggested we should agree. The Chairman hasn’t yet studied all the details, especially any hidden costs. The group who run the Mission, approximately 10 people, will need to be catered for and will stay with parishioners, possibly for 14 nights. Fr Danny to contact the other Priests who have organised a Mission in their parish and how it was they handled it. The Mission is for the parish and schools. This was discussed

**Any Other Business/continued:**

Parish Pastoral Council have asked the Finance Committee to consider what can be done with regard to Catholic Secondary School transportation for pupils, as there is no local Catholic Secondary School. Parents having to make decisions regarding Catholic Secondary School with cost implication of buses and extended travelling times for pupils. The Catholic Schools are in Reading, Slough or Farnham. Parish Pastoral Council Education Formation Team are investigating the transportation of children to the schools. Catholic pupils are not attending Catholic Schools mainly because of the transportation problems. This was discussed. Minibus option was discussed but the geographic spread of the Catholic Schools makes this difficult.

Meeting Closed 8.45pm

**Closing Prayer:**

Fr. Danny closed the meeting with a short prayer.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**TBC**