

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Isle of Wight Pastoral Area Pastoral Council

**Held 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in the McAuley Centre**

**Present** Dominic FitzPatrick (Chair), Fr Gerard Flynn, Fr David McCulloch, Fr Claro Conde, Fr Michael Purbrick, Rev David Croucher, Jack Perkins, Kevin McGuigan, Lorraine, Blair, Michael White, Peter Birks, Sr Stella, Maria de la Portilla, Maureen Briscoe

**Apologies** Fr Anthony Glaysher, Fr Brian Coogan, Alistair Drain, Angela Hewkin, Diane Blake, Eve Pollon, Pete Walkden, Sr Bernadette, Yvonne Rowles, Charlie Marlow.

The Chair announced that Charlie Marlow has sent in a letter of resignation from the PAPC.

**Opening Prayer** Fr Gerard Flynn

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Approval of Minutes from meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> 2009**

#### **2. Progress to December 2010 “Emparishment”**

##### **2.1 Rooting the Process in Prayer**

Fr GF proposed that worshipping communities should be encouraged to pray for the unity of the Pastoral Area during the process. Sr S agreed to draft a prayer. **Action – Sr Stella**

##### **2.2 “Road Shows”**

DF called for urgent action to appoint a team to organise the logistics of road show meetings on the single parish issue in all existing parishes. Fr GF emphasised the importance of explaining to those who attend the road shows that the principle of subsidiarity is paramount in the single parish process. No one should leave a road show believing that their community will lose the power of decision-making. Fr GF also praised PB and the Newport/Totland parish council for their management of the tensions involved in the union of those two communities. This example could be a template for the road shows.

##### **2.3 Composition of Management Group**

Composition of group agreed up to the present: Fr GF, Fr AG, DF, Sr B. Further discussion required and suggestions needed for 5<sup>th</sup> member, preferably female.

#### 2.4 Finance Committee

Progress towards a single parish will require progress towards a single Finance Committee. The approved minutes of the PAPC meetings are now posted on the Island Church website, and it was requested that the Finance Committees should circulate their minutes, ideally on the website also. DF emphasised that our progress towards the single parish needs to be especially transparent where finance is concerned. DF will attend the next Treasurers group meeting (3/6/09) which is specifically looking at how they will be organised as one parish.

#### 2.5 Response to the Bishop

The response is being collated into a more 'readable' form by Ellen McCarthy. DF has written an introduction and Fr GF will add some wise words.

#### 2.6 Task-Based Working

DF asked for volunteers to accept responsibility for various tasks mentioned on the hand-out, or to propose others who might perform any of these tasks more effectively.

KMcG and Sr S proposed that the McAuley Group would lead Faith Development. This was accepted.

Fr GF suggested Fr AG to have responsibility for Canon Law issues.

KMcG was proposed and accepted to liaise with Finance Committees, along with AD.

Sr S was willing to take responsibility for Education Development. A discussion ensued. PB raised his experience that some school head-teachers never communicated with their local churches. Therefore they would not know how to communicate with a future single parish. LB reminded us that all schools are required to develop links with their local communities, and this is especially true of Catholic schools; they would be criticised by inspectors if they had weak links with the local worshipping community. Rev DC added that some

community schools had no outlet for a link with local churches, despite some pupils in the school attending church regularly. DF then asked what provision should be made for that situation? It was suggested that Angela Hewkin be asked if she could put together a presentation for local head-teachers on the question of Education Development. **Action – DF to ask AH to prepare presentation.**

It was acknowledged that the PAPC needed an excellent Communications Officer, and the question of a regular newsletter was raised. **Action – DF to ask Alistair Drain if he was communications officer for the Deanery in the past.**

DF has started work with Ministry Development already. There is already someone in place Monica Chmelova (advisor for Catechesis and Adult Formation) who has close links with the island as a whole. The PAPC needs to communicate effectively with the diocesan department of Pastoral Formation. It was agreed that the PAPC should advertise for individuals to volunteer for different developmental roles.

Fr GF suggested that the Management Group should begin work on Working Practice for the PAPC.

Rev DC said that he was happy to sell the idea of Stewardship on the island, especially to promote the “Living Our Faith” programme, and its attempt to raise £9m prize fund.

A Safeguarding Coordinator for the island may have already been appointed by the diocese. **Action – DF to ask KMcG to find out this is.**

The PAPC recognised that we need to look at ministry to young people. Last year, a Youth Officer for the island was not appointed after investigation. JP recommended that the PAPC should be more fully informed about youth events, although many good things are happening e.g. the “Sanctuary” Summer Camp at Verbum Dei from 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Solace Tent report**

Fr DMc brought the meeting up-to-date on the plans of the Solace Tent group at the island festivals. Flyers were distributed to the council members about the call for cakes, and prayers are requested for the success of evangelisation. Various activities are planned to offer hospitality to festival goers.

### 3.2 Funding the McAuley Centre

KMcG reported on plans to stabilise the McAuley Centre finances, and devise clearer budgets and financial accountability.

### 3.3 Confirmation 2009

The island's confirmation will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July at Ryde. It was questioned whether there were any East Cowes candidates.

**Action** – LB to talk to Pete Walkden about whether there were candidates.

## 4 Reports from Working Groups

The working groups have effectively disbanded as the PAPC moves towards task-based working.

## 5 Island Treasurers' Report

No reports received from the last meeting, but the PAPC needs to coordinate with Island Treasurers to work towards the single parish.

## 6 Reports from the Worshipping Communities

Newport and Totland – the parish council has identified 8 priorities for the parish, and is emphasising subsidiarity as a key principle for the local church's administration. The traditional understanding of the role of the priest will naturally be called into question and answers will need to be discovered. There will be teams established to look at each priority by September, and the teams should start work on resolving issues during Advent.

East Cowes – There will be a vigil for young people at Pentecost. The community recognised the need for long-term planning, and that some key figures will need to be replaced as illness and old age increase. It

has been agreed that there should be a fresh outreach to the wider community.

South Wight – much progress has been made in strengthening the sense of a single worshipping community throughout the parish. Planning permission for the demolition of St Wilfrid's church in Ventnor has finally been received.

Cowes – it is very encouraging that there were 14 First Holy Communion candidates this year.

Ryde – Fr DMc announced that there had been some concern expressed over the issue of Quarr and St Cecilia's Abbeys following the diocesan calendar rather than their own approved Benedictine calendar for the celebration of Ascension and Corpus Christi on the nearest Sunday. Quarr wished the PAPC to know that they would follow the diocesan calendar in future, as this issue can cause confusion for the laity.

## **7 Request for Island Representatives to PAPC Task Groups**

List on handout not completed, but some representatives agreed, see item 2.6 above. Further work to be done.

## **8 AOB – Week of Guided Prayer Follow-Up**

Enthusiasm for follow-up from participants in Week of Guided Prayer has been considerable. The Spirituality Development Group was asked to take this forward. Other members of the group would be needed and request for volunteers made through newsletters. It was agreed that those who wish to participate in follow-up or in the group should contact their parish priest or the coordinating pastor to ensure a certain competence in future members. The Pontifical Mission Society also needed attention; again requests should be made for volunteers to participate in local organisation.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

Date set as Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009