

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2019

13.30 PM IN ST COLUMBKILLE'S PRESBYTERY

MINUTES

Present:

Rev Fr Patrick A Hennessy
Rev Fr Bernard Mournian
Margaret McGrath (Chair)
Paul McNeil
Monica Toner
Patricia Kennedy

Apologies:

Rev Deacon William McMillan
Maureen McNamara

Item 1 – Opening Prayer

Father Hennessy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Item 2 – Introduction

Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making the time to attend this additional meeting of the Parish Finance Committee. Today's meeting had been called as Father Mournian would be able to report details of actions taken in respect of the proposed work on the Frescos in the Side Chapels and ask that the Committee approves the work being taken forward.

Item 3 – Renovation/Conservation of Side Chapel Frescos

Father Mournian outlined the work which had been undertaken in planning for this since the last Parish Finance Committee meeting. On the advice of Guy Logan, the Diocesan Estates Manager, Fr Mournian had obtained a further quote from a second specialist contractor for this work but that it was for a considerably higher price. In discussions with Guy it was felt that, as this is quite specialist work and he had made full enquiries of other churches regarding the quality of work, there was no need to obtain a third quote to meet the process set out for submission to the Fabric and Planning Committee. Guy also advised that Listed Building Consent will not be required as we qualify for an Ecclesiastical Exemption within the planning legislation.

The Fabric and Planning Committee discussed the proposed work on the Frescos at its meeting on 25th June and agreed that it could go ahead – on the basis that it would be fully funded by the Parish through fundraising activities. This was then considered by the Diocesan Finance Committee and was also approved there.

Father Mournian then outlined the scope of the work – using the paper provided by the company. This will be a four month project, beginning in August and finished by Christmas. In order to keep costs to a minimum, the contractor will live in the Presbytery over this period. Work will begin on the Sacred Heart chapel which will necessitate its closure and then will move on to The Lady Chapel. The work consists of sealing back areas of loose and brittle paint, any large fragments of loose plaster will be filled and then dirt and old varnish will be removed, before retouching the artwork and re-coating the entire ceiling for protection. A new scaffold will be purchased at the cost of £1,000 – which has been included in the overall price. Work on the two ceilings will cost £18,000 (£9,000.00 each). Although the work will be completed by the end of the year, we will be able to make payments beyond that date. Details of the contractor’s insurance have been examined by the Diocesan Estates manager who is content that there is appropriate cover.

A full discussion took place. As at previous meetings of the Committee, all agreed that the work needs to be done. Some concern was raised about the cost – expectations had been that this type of work would cost considerably more – even though we are saving direct costs by housing the contractor in the Presbytery throughout the project. Father Mournian explained that a number of projects had been carried out by the contractor in other churches – with good results. The following requirements were agreed as **ACTION POINTS: Father Mournian will:**

- Check with G Logan whether we need to notify the planning authorities that the work will be undertaken – under the Ecclesiastical Exemption.
- Ask G Logan to set out in headed paper, details of the consideration given to the application to the Fabric and Planning Committee, that the Committee is satisfied with the approach to obtaining quotations and that the insurance cover being provided by the contractor is satisfactory. This is to ensure we hold all details of this type in the project file.
- Ask the contractor to include in writing that the cost will not exceed the stated amount and to provide a method statement for this project

Paul also thought it might be helpful to let H McBeth (from our Renovation Steering Group) look over the details received from the contractor as he has some experience in this area of expertise. **ACTION POINT: P McNeill to liaise with H McBeth**

Item 3 (1) – Fundraising

Father Mournian explained that we need to raise the £18,000 for this project but not via extra collections etc. He has already received a donation of £2,000 and plans for fundraising events including e.g. Introduction of a Remembrance Book to be held at the side chapels where each week of the year would be available for prayers to be said at the Altar for any sort of family remembrance – and donations could be made towards the project. He would also suggest a parish event like a dinner dance which could include an auction. He has a Zuchetto (skullcap) which belonged to Pope Benedict which he would be happy to auction. He has also spoken to a few parishioners and he is sure people will have further ideas and will offer to help.

Full details of income and expenditure on this project will require to be recorded. **ACTION POINT: M McGrath to set up file and spreadsheet.**

Item 3(2) – Communication

Monica raised the issue of communicating all of this to the parish, particularly as we still have further pieces of work to complete. We agreed it would be helpful to produce an additional Information Sheet to go out with the bulletin this week – as work is due to begin the following week. This should outline what work will be undertaken, by whom and over what period. That there will be times when one or other of the Chapels (and therefore the votive stand at that Chapel) will be unavailable – but there will always be one available. We also need to outline the costs involved and proposals for meeting those costs. It was also felt that it might be helpful if we had some photographs of the current state of both ceilings for “before” and “after” images. **ACTION POINT: M McGrath to draft Information Sheet today and email it to members to be agreed by close of play on Thursday – Margaret to arrange to final Information Sheet to be copied and issued this weekend. ACTION POINT: Fr Bernard to forward contactor’s current photographs to M McGrath who will consider whether additional photographs are required.**

Item 4 – AOCB

Father Hennessy raised the issue of the flags on the Church and when they were going to be taken down. **ACTION POINT: M McGrath to liaise with D Cameron and report back to Fr Hennessy.**

Item 5 – Closing prayer

Father Hennessy closed the meeting with prayer.

Post Meeting Note

Minutes were circulated by email and approved by Monica Toner and seconded by Patricia Kennedy.

July 2019