

Parish Council St John the Evangelist
Minutes 17 January 2012

Present: Alex Bissett, Barbara Dransch, Bea Robertson, Bill Broughton (chair), Catherine Malone, Emmy Verdun, Gloria Fox, Jo Cassie, Mary Ellen Herbert, Mary Frances Marshall, Monica Patten, Peter Oliver, Rob Heard,, Tony Lovink.
Regrets: Joseph Jacques, Margaret Capalezo, Peter Johnston, Shannon Bagg.

- 1 The meeting began with a welcome to all followed by the opening worship.
- 2 The minutes of 20 December were adopted as circulated.
- 3 Governance: Bill suggested that since the present deliberations on governance were in response to a motion passed at last year's Vestry it would be good to distribute the current status before this year's meeting.
 - The Corporation was discussed: since the new incumbent and the two wardens already meet weekly, it functions essentially as an executive committee, responsible to the Parish Council (PC) between Vestry meetings, and could report at each PC meeting. Deputy Wardens can be appointed as Warden if a Warden is no longer able to act.
 - It was agreed that the PC normally operates on consensus, and that communication is needed between parish committees and the PC.
 - The duties of the PC will be expanded to include:
 - the PC makes recommendations on all parish matters;
 - the PC acts in the name of Vestry between Vestry meetings.
 - Discussion regarding the PC Conversation Corner was brought forward in the agenda. Jo Cassie will prepare the rota, replacing Joe. The PC members manning the Corner will be added to the duty list in the pew bulletin and be called by the office to confirm during the week preceding each service.
 - It was agreed that the parish committees need to be visible. The welcoming package being prepared for newcomers will list them all; the list will also feature in the St Johns web site, in This Week At St Johns, and be posted in large clear print. We should also pray for a committee each week in the Sunday service, taking them each in turn.
 - It was agreed that Bill will circulate the amended governance document to the parish.
- 4 Upcoming Events: Monica entered the following dates:
 - a Ash Wednesday PWRDF Poverty Supper - 22 February in the Parish Hall
 - b Annual Vestry - Sunday, 26 February
 - c Parish Council Retreat - Friday & Saturday - 2 & 3 March at St Johns
 - d Maunday Thursday Seder Meal - 5 April
 - e Art Credo - 21 April to 6 May with the vernissage the evening of 20 April
Martha Nixon, Jack Fraser, and Alex Bissett are committee members.
 - f Newcomers Lunch - 19 February, pot luck

The Christian Education committee will soon issue its Spring program.

- 5 Moving Forward: Monica led the discussion how the various ministries could implement the process described in the distributed material. It was felt that it is important to contact a spokesperson for each ministry so that they can react to the process, and voice their concerns, and to visit each group to get their responses. Coming together a way forward could be identified. Use of the building and its spaces should be identified in the ministry responses.

6 The people's French prayer after communion was discussed. As now voiced it is rushed, making thoughtful prayer difficult. Asking the congregation to stand before the prayer is started was suggested to start calmly.

7 Emmy reported that the financial status is somewhat worse than had been predicted at the last meeting.

8 2012 Budget: Barbara said that the Christmas appeal letter produced about \$14K. Currently the 2012 budget deficit is at about \$30,000. There is little more in expenditures cuts that can be done at this time. Barbara and Monica met with Bishop John, Michael Herbert and Archdeacon Selzer to discuss our history of deficit, current debt obligations and possible relief available from the Diocese. There is a Diocesan Grant program available to parishes to provide some relief in a year of deficit, however the grants have all been made for 2012. It is possible for us to apply for a 2013 grant by the deadline in October 2012. The Diocese recommended we do not use Consolidated Trust Fund money to disguise our deficit position. A discussion followed around what level of deficit would be acceptable. It was agreed that we should proceed with the \$30K deficit and if necessary go to the Trust Fund and plan to repay it by yearly amounts.

Barbara proposed putting forward three motions to vestry:

1. To transfer funds from our Rectory Trust Fund to pay the balance of the mortgage taken out for the ARC renovations that is owed to the Diocesan Extension Fund ~\$40,000.
2. To forgive (not pay back to ourselves) the balance of the loan taken from our Rectory Trust Fund for the roof renewal in the amount of \$43,000.
3. To transfer funds from the long-term portion of the St John's Fund held in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund to cover the 2011 deficit ~\$35,000.

A discussion followed. These motions were agreed.

9 Diocesan Gift Program: Monica chairs it for the Diocese. She explained that it will come on stream this year. Funds realised go equally to the Diocese and to St Johns, but if the goal is passed, the total comes to St Johns. The Diocese will present the program to PC and the Stewardship and Finance Committees on 27th March when PC will make its decision on participation. If agreed, it would mean forming a leadership team in the spring and conducting the campaign in the fall. It uses visitation to every member and has been successful in other parishes. People are asked to make a 5 year pledge.

10 The remaining agenda items were deferred to the next meeting.

11 The meeting closed with The Grace.

12 The next meeting is 21 February.