

St Werburgh's Parish Council Meeting

Wed 8th October at 7pm

Minutes

Present: Fr Paul, Lyn Williams, Lal Cook, Tina Bainbridge, Stephen Tierney, Bernice Meredith, Pat Floate, Marian McCarthy (chair), Steve Hutchinson

Welcome and opening prayer: Marian welcomed everyone and asked Fr Paul to lead us in a prayer.

Minutes of last meeting and actions: No amendments to the last minutes were flagged.

Actions from September meeting:

- Replacement lead for Readers' Rota: Marian reported that David Quayle has agreed to pick up this role and Marian will do a handover with him before the next rota is due Q1 2026) CLOSED
- Relaying of the path to the house: Marian reported two quotes obtained. The meeting agreed to go with Diamond Driveways (Ian Dymont). Work will start on Wed 15th October and last a week. In meantime path to be made 'out of bounds'. CLOSED

Ongoing actions:

- Group updates for website in process (Lyn and Pete Penson)
- Parish census timescale to be agreed with Fr David.
- Cath Soc start needs to be organised. Lal to contact Wilma, who is now Cath Soc chair
- Events checklist to be updated by Marian

Support and guidance for Fr David over first weekend

Fr David due at 09.30 on Friday 10th Oct. Fr Paul invited as many of PC members who could to come along to meet Fr David. Those available are Lyn, Pat, Bernice, Marian and possibly Steve. Lyn will have a list of point for first weekend for us to go through with Fr David.

Lyn confirmed that all housekeeping matters for Fr David's arrival are sorted.

Outstanding matters from Fr Paul?

Fr Paul unsure of IT availability at Stalybridge parish. Some discussion about how best to route email from St Werburgh's which need to go to Fr Paul. Steve H will filter incoming email and forward as appropriate.

At St Werburgh's, all systems are up to date. There are no funerals currently booked and only one wedding (December?).

Confidential waste (in garage) needs disposing of urgently and some goods for charities are in the garage to be donated.

Fr Paul mentioned two specific matters which need addressing:

1. Emergency repairs to the high level lights in church, as more are failing.

2. Heating Services (Stanley Roberts) are due to service heating systems in both church and house, and install two radiator units.

Both these matters will be picked up by Marian and Steve H.

Other business

- H&S: Fire Risk Assessment results: positive feedback on work achieved since last FRA, but inclusion of the house in FRA has raised significant concerns. Marian is providing a report to Diocesan H&S Officer.
- 150th Anniversary update:
 - Blessings of graves a successful afternoon.
 - Plans for a 2nd collecton in December to round off the whole Hospice appeal.
 - Prayer book is imminent
 - Concert by Cathedral Nave choir on 11th November; Tina will want some pointers for microphones etc
 - Zosia Archibald is looking for someone to provide illustrations for her 'story'.
- The organ: Tom Rozario and Bob Owen are keen to have some remedial work done on the organ and have also mooted a full maintenance. We had discussion around organ costs and it was suggested that the organ maintenance may need to be self funded, as in the past, or a funding appeal made. This matter needs to be monitored by the Finance Committee.
- Console table for the porch now being made.

There were no other matters raised.

Marian thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Next meeting: Thursday 6th November at 7pm

Marian McCarthy

9th October 2025