

PARISH OF ST ANTHONY AND ST MARK – PARISH FABRIC COMMITTEE

MEETING 26 MARCH 2024 – ST ANTHONY’S PARISH HOUSE

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer

Fr Reilly opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.

2. Apologies: Lord Haughey; Margaret McGrath

3. Acceptance of minutes. Minutes were accepted

4. Matters arising from minutes

Action Point 1: MMcG to list the tests undertaken and provide to IS who will check for compliance with requirements. **Pending**

Action Point 2: MMcG to provide copy of St Anthony’s Fire Plan. IS to review and advise on implementation procedures. **IS has received and viewed the plan.**

Iain has undertaken a full review of the buildings from the point of view of health & safety, disability and fire safety. He has been awaiting the current testing schedule in order to compare and contrast his plan with what is already done. Then we can move towards implementation, including processes, protocols and training. Discussion ensued around such issues as having named responsible persons for each Mass; visibility of those with stewarding responsibility; recording of checks etc., and these will be taken forward as part of the overall plan.

5. Updates on progress

Completed:

a) **Disabled access to St Mark’s Hall (and paving):** the disability access ramp to the hall has been completed, and the workers continued on to pave the area from the ramp to the stairs at the front of the hall. SK indicated that they will make a small ramp to eliminate the little step in the pathway between hall and main road, and the path will eventually be re-tarmacked once the tree roots have stopped growing.

Discussion ensued regarding our obligations in regard to the spirit of disability legislation, viz all parishioners and visitors being able to access the premises in the same way. Consideration will be given to making a ramp between the church car park and the hall access path.

b) **Insulation of St Mark’s Presbytery loft:** three parish volunteers cleared the house loft, and it has now been completely insulated.

c) **Loft ladder for St Anthony’s Hall (Insulation of St Anthony’s hall):** The loft ladder has been installed, and the loft subsequently cleared over two

Saturdays by a team of parishioners. The loft area has now been fully insulated.

d) **Carpeting of St Anthony's church (seating areas and side chapel):** the old cracked lino under the benches has been removed and replaced by new carpet tiles. Work will begin soon to remove the benches and lay carpet tiles in the side chapel.

e) **Loop system in both churches:** the loop system has been fixed

f) **Sound systems in both churches:** these have been improved and the sound levels checked

g) **Repair to gutter at front door of St Anthony's Church:** this has been completed.

Pending:

a) **Damp issues in St Mark's church: church and loft:** the issue of damp in the choir loft in St Mark's (which has caused discolouration of the walls) will be fixed in a cost-effective way by opening the two outside windows in the choir loft and placing grilles over them so that they won't be closed. The walls will also be cleaned.

Vents will be cut in the area above the current choir area in the church (front right of the church) to provide sufficient ventilation in that area.

b) **Repair to storm damage at St Anthony's tower roof:** this is awaiting more clement weather.

c) **Standing rainwater at the Woodend Rd side of the Church: the culvert not working:** SK will review this issue.

d) **Heating at St Mark's church:** down-blowers will soon be installed, which should minimise the heat in the church escaping upwards. The cavity between the church ceiling and roof will also be insulated.

Longer-term:

a) **Parking extension at St Mark's:** this was discussed fully. The plan is to replace the grassy area in front of St Mark's parish house with an extension to the car park. All agreed that car parking is an issue and that this is therefore welcome. The committee discussed the wisdom of undertaking such large capital works in either of the churches but agreed that they are justified. It was noted that parishioners should be kept informed and be consulted over large works of this type, especially where there may be a benefit/deficit balance (in this case losing some of the landscaping in order to gain more car parking).

b) **Disabled access to St Marks' church:** the committee had discussed adapting the current side ramp, but a new proposal was made and agreed which would involve building a ramp to the left-hand door of the porch area.

The committee was satisfied that once all of the works discussed in item 5 above are complete, all of the major outstanding works projects identified by the Committee will have been completed, and that we will then move into a maintenance phase of our work.

6. AOCB: none

7. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 25th April, 6 p.m., St Anthony's parish house (dining room)