

**Minutes of the
Portstewart Parish Pastoral Council**

1. Present were

Sally Andrews, Aaron Doherty, Arlene Duffy, Sean Farren, Ernestine McKeever, Fr Austin McGirr.

Apologies were received from Edel Mooney.

2. The opening prayer was led by Arlene Duffy.

3. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4. Election of officers: Terry Butcher was the sole nomination for the position of Chair and was duly elected. Sally Andrews likewise was elected Vice-Chair and Sean Farren was elected as Secretary.

5. Co-options: It was agreed that parishioners Paul McCormick and Richard Carey be approached by Fr McGirr and Terry Butcher to invite them to join the Pastoral Council.

6. Mission statement. Members considered several possible mission statements and following discussion adopted the following:
We welcome each parishioner and visitor as part of the Body of Christ that all may feel cherished and confident to recognise and use their gifts in our community. We believe that we all share the mission of Jesus Christ and that through God all things are possible. Through Christ may we live our faith, share our faith and deepen our faith.

7. **Contacting Parish Groups:** It was decided that the Parish Council would compile a booklet containing information on the many groups currently functioning in the parish. Such a booklet would show at a glance what parish groups are doing and where there may be gaps to be filled.

A copy of an information booklet produced by a US parish was tabled to indicate what might be compiled. Following discussion it was agreed that members would contact representatives of the various groups to invite them provide short information notes together with contact details (phone numbers and, or emails). Copies of a page from the US booklet were circulated to provide guidance as to the kind of notes requested. The aim is to have the information collated by end of November and the booklet produced by end of January.

8. **Other matters:** It was agreed that copies of the existing Parish Council constitution be circulated for discussion at the next meeting. Ernestine raised the need for a rota of parishioners willing to carry the gifts to the altar at Mass be compiled and after some discussion it was agreed that such a rota be compiled. Ernestine to do so.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 4 December.