**Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 26th February, 6.00pm – St Mary’s Church Parish Rooms**

 **Present Apologies**

Peter Robinson (Chair) Mary Carroll Barry Close Paul Hurst

Father Paul Johnstone (President) Sean Close

Helen McCrory Gillian Finlinson (Secretary)

**1) Meeting opened meeting with a prayer.**

**2)** **Apologies see above.**

**3) Minutes of last meeting.**

Minutes were approved with a minor alteration about the new church signage.

**4) Matters arising.**

Standing order forms are now in the back of church and they will now be returned to church so we are aware of who will be paying by standing order. The new Chaplain is now in place. A social event took place for the confirmation children and all seemed to enjoy it, we hope to do it again. Funding for events may be available through Churches Together.

**5) Chairman’s Report.**

There was a discussion around making people welcome in church especially new people to church. The parish will continue to support Father Paul when he is away from the Parish. See Attached

**6) Strategic Expenditure.**

Although the expenditure will be discussed at the Finance committee it is worthwhile the parish council considering how money should be spent. Thus being able to contribute fully to the process.

**7) St Mary’s 150th Anniversary.**

Parish Council to consider ideas on how we should celebrate this.

**8) Buildings Report.**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

**9) Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 25th March 2020.

Barry Close already sent apologies for this meeting.

Additional information: Father Paul noted that Bishop Paul will be spending some time later in the year at St Marys and will want to meet with the Parish Council.

**10) Meeting closed with a prayer.**

**“Christ is life, we exist to bring His life to our part of God’s creation”**