**Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 20th November 6.00pm – St Mary’s Church Parish Rooms**

 **Present Apologies**

Peter Robinson (Chair) Paul Hurst Brian Morris

Father Paul Johnstone (President) Sean Close Mary Carroll

Helen McCrory Gillian Finlinson (Secretary)

Barry Close

**1)** Meeting was opened with Our Father.

**2)** Apologies noted above.

We have also received a formal resignation from Brian Morris. Parish council would like to thank Brian for all the work that he has done. We currently have vacancies on the Parish Council and will seek to fill them as soon as possible.

**3) Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Minutes were approved.

**4) Matters arising:**

A standing order has been set up and once we have confirmation that it has gone into the church account a form will be uploaded onto website for parishioners to use and set their own standing order up. In addition gift aid forms have been sent out for Mary’s Meals. Lighting and signage still needs to be addressed. An electrician has been approached to do the work. It was agreed that the signage should be the same size as the existing sign. Location still needs to be confirmed.

**Action**: Barry to look into funding and Paul will organise the signage. Gillian will also look into school signage.

**5) Chairman’s Report:**

One Priest parish is working well at the moment. An expenditure report was distributed at the meeting and was produced by Jim and Eric. Parish Council would like to acknowledge thanks to both for their hard work on this report. The report will be given out at the weekend masses. In January it was confirmed along with finance the strategic direction of the parish will be discussed.

**6) Youth Ministry:**

A lot of youth ministry work goes on outside of our immediate local area. We need to really focus on bringing youth ministry to our area. The parish will continue to push this forward, liaise with Diocese and St Benedict’s School. Castlerigg could also be approached for advice.

**7) Action Plan:**

Action plan was discussed. It was agreed in the New Year to ask for more volunteers for church.

**8) Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 22nd January – 6.00pm.

**8) Closing Prayer:**

Meeting wasclosed with Hail Mary.

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