

**Synopsis of Minutes** of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Opening:** The GK opened the meeting in accordance with the manual for small councils.

**Apologies:** David Richards.

**In attendance:** Brian Heap, Bernard Holden (GK), John McManus, Andrew Szlaz, Paul Toman, Rev. Francis Wadsworth.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were proposed as a true record by John McManus, seconded by Paul Toman and passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Both the GK and John McManus had received identical replies to letters they had sent individually to our MP Sara Britcliffe, regarding a proposal to extend a mother's legal right to an abortion to the full term. Sara stated that she would oppose the proposal and work with the government to ensure that "telemedicine" abortion services are provided safely and that women are offered the choice of a face-to-face appointment with a doctor.

This letter provoked a discussion about the morality of abortion, and, by extension, euthanasia. These are often promoted most vociferously by people with vested, or otherwise, interests in pursuing these matters. Legislation based on individual circumstances and extended across the general population makes bad laws. There is often conflict between what is legally right and what is morally right, just because something has been given legal status does not automatically mean it is right.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported on the state of the Council's finances. The 2022-2023 subscriptions to the value of £180.00 are still outstanding.

**Actions:** All the Grand National KSC Raffle tickets were sold and the counterfoils and cheque for £125.00 sent to Glasgow along with a letter expressing our view that the raffle should remain as it is and not be converted to a Christmas raffle.

The Holy Week Posters have been provided to the Catholic churches in Accrington, Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood for distribution on Palm Sunday.

Posters produced by Brian Heap advertising "The Way of the Cross" walk on Good Friday have been provided to most churches of all traditions in the Accrington area. This is more difficult than previous years as the cost of postage is now too expensive for the limited council funds and the fact that a single minister is responsible for a number of churches in most instances.

John McManus has contacted both Mount Carmel and St Christopher's schools who said they would arrange for the 10 students required to either read or be cross-bearers with placards announcing the name of each station to be available on the day. The readings and prayers along with the running order would be provided to the schools within the week.

Mount Carmel are to provide the public address equipment and both schools said they would advertise the event on their respective websites.

The event has been included in various local parish bulletins and hopefully will be on Hyndburn Chat on Facebook. The Accrington Observer does not appear to have been supportive of publicising the event in previous years.

**Recruitment:** No transcript of the Head Office zoom meeting on recruitment has been provided, a recording of the discussions is available but proving difficult for us to locate on the internet. The demographic of the congregations at Mass provides little opportunity for new Knights recruitment. It is felt that a short address appealing for new members would be of limited or no benefit due to this demographic. The GK will write to Head Office for advice on a marketing strategy for attracting new members.

**Any Other Business:** the GK stated his thoughts that as he is approaching his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday it might be a good time for him to step back, but the rest of the brothers felt that with the council being so few in numbers that he was vital to the continued running of it. Therefore, the GK was asked to keep his office but mainly as an honorary position. The brothers present stated that most tasks would be shared out amongst the brothers as and when required. In specific, the secretary would continue to write up the minutes of meetings with the treasurer taking on the task of typing them and forwarding them out by e-mail or post.

The GK drew attention to the Christian website which briefs on various moral issues which could form the basis of letters or e-mails stating the catholic viewpoint to whomever it may concern, usually the local MP or other prominent persons.

**Closure:** The meeting closed at 20:30 with prayers for deceased brothers.

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Marian Room at St Anne's.

Distributed by email by the GK and copies provided at our meeting to those not on email.