Knights of Saint Columba Accrington Council 188

Synopsis of Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday January 21st 2020

Opening The GK opened the meeting according to the manual for small councils.

*In attendance* – Paul Cain, Brian Heap, Bernard Holden, John McManus, Paul Moxham, Andrew Szlas and Paul Toman,

*Minutes of last meeting* – Held on December 19th 2019 were passed as a true record.

*Matters arising* No reply from Supreme Secretary to letter sent by GK

**Reports**

*Action*  Jed Gregory Include report on action plan development

It was felt the Palm Sunday procession was no longer viable. Last year’s trial of prayers on the Market Hall Square should be repeated. The Good Friday Stations of the Cross will also be repeated. The marketing of the Easter programme was discussed but no recommendation was forthcoming.

*Treasurer*  Brian Heap Include report on action plan development

The Treasurer reported on the state of our finances including £77.88 which was spent on the purchasing of Calendars and biscuits for our widows. The Christmas posters were taken and displayed by more parishioners this year. It was proposed we order them once more next year.

The treasurer confirmed that the annual subscription will remain as last year. The GK hoped the Brothers would also help to support the council’s finances by contributing more to the Donation box.

*Deputy GK* Paul Cain Include report on action plan development

Paul reported the difficulty in recruiting new members because a large part of the population was nominal Catholics who no longer attended church. Those who did attend were busy looking after their own families and could not give time to the Knights. He indicated that many organisations which in the past had strong support from the community were now finding it difficult to recruit new members. He put this down to the way society was moving.

*Chancellor*  Paul Toman Include report on action plan development

Paul reported that Ray Williams wife Mary had died. He attended her Requiem Mass with John McManus and Eric Mullen. Her daughter expressed their thanks to the KSC for the support over many years and our attendance at Mary’s funeral. Mrs Conway was reported to be in relatively good health. Whilst Iris Barratt health was not good, she has good support from her family and social services.

*Secretary*  John McManus Include report on action plan development

John reported he continues to try to establish the location of John Kafel’s wife Rita in the Llandudno area. The general feeling of the brothers was that she may have died and the news of her passing was not sent back to where her late husband was a member of our council for 19 years.

The synopsis of our minutes was not sent to John so he could not put them in the Clayton Church. They are now displayed in St. Anne’s church.

*Technology Officer* David Richard Include report on action plan development

There was no report

*Grand Knight* Bernard Holden Include report on action plan development

The GK opened the debate and expressed his concern at the existing situation

*Debate*

People between the ages of 18 and 45 are largely missing from our churches. What will the situation in our schools and churches if this is allowed to continue?

Various points were made:-

* We live in a secular society in which the attractions of the world drew people away from a vigorous practice of the Christian faith and promoted selfishness.
* Christianity is seen to have little relevance because Gospel values always lay the responsibility of looking after each other. Love God; love your neighbour.
* Social media have made the situation worse with harmful messages, bullying, and mockery all of which can be carried out anonymously and with impunity. Leading to the gradual destruction of a persons self-esteem.
* Religious education in schools, if well done, can make children aware of the love of God. They will be given lots of support to develop their love of God. Children will be encouraged to learn passages of the Bible and make them part of everyday life. The Bible ceases to be a ‘holy book’ reserved for Sundays but a part of everyday life.

*Date of next meeting*

**February 18th 2020 at 7.30 in St. Anne’s Marian Room’**