



**St Joseph's Bishop Thornton  
DIOCESE OF LEEDS  
Finance Committee**

**Monday 8 April 2019**

**Attendees**

Ian Burrell  
Helen Jordan  
Mark Ashworth  
Mark Grafton  
Patrick Henry  
Martin Holden

Kevin Anderson and Anna Larkin from the Diocesan Curia were in attendance.

In the light of the recently announced Clergy moves, the date of this meeting had been brought forward. Fr Pearce is delighted to be moving to the area and his first Mass in the Parish will be on Sunday 5 May 2019. It was explained that, at the request of Bishop Marcus, for the time being, Ian Burrell would continue to Chair the Finance Committee at Bishop Thornton.

**Health and Safety**

Essential electrical work has recently been carried out in the presbytery. A topographical survey of the graveyard has also been completed. Monument testing will recommence in the near future.

The Catholic Insurance Service have recently issued guidance on Candle Safety in churches. All are asked to ensure that votive candles are securely inserted into the stand and that these are always extinguished before leaving the property.

**Finance**

AL reported that the year-end accounts to 31 March 2019 are being prepared. These will be shared as soon as they are available.

**Community Organisational Sustainability**

Acknowledgement was given to many generous volunteers who are committed to their service in the Parish. Fr Pearce is planning to hold a meeting in the Parish, shortly after becoming Parish Priest, and this will include seeking further volunteers to help him in the efficient running of the Parish.

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## Property

Recent communications have mentioned the desire of the Finance Committee to obtain Planning in Principle for a small linear development on Colber Lane. It is considered that this will generate cash to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Parish and the upkeep of our Grade II Listed Church. This application has now been submitted and validated. Public planning notices will be displayed in the near future and a decision is expected within approx. 2 months. A plan of the proposed development is shown below.

### *Plan associated with the Planning in Principle*



Due to problems with the Church boiler the decision was taken to go ahead with a replacement boiler. This is likely to cost between £5,000 and £6,000. It is hoped that some grant funding may be available and an application is being prepared.

Consideration is being given to works which may be required in the Church including some internal and external decoration. In preparation for this Listed Building Consent will be applied for. This will be obtained at the next opportunity which is November 2019 ahead of works being undertaken in spring 2020. The Parish will be consulted on these works in due course.

There are also plans to undertake various small repair jobs in the presbytery.