

St Anne's Parish Church, Corstorphine

Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting on 27 May 2014

1. Constitution

The meeting was constituted with a reading and a prayer by the Moderator. There were 33 members present.

2. Approval of the subsequent order of business

One extra item was intimated. Mrs Doris Duff asked if a painting of our church by a late member, Mr George Lyall, which he had gifted to Corstorphine Hospital with a plaque in memory of his wife, could be brought back to St Anne's when Corstorphine Hospital closes. This was unanimously supported.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from 7 members.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting on 8th April were approved with one small matter arising. The Session Clerk would prepare the minutes, with the recording of the meeting used only as backup. The minutes of 20th April 2014 were approved.

5. Congregational Business

a) Communion Arrangements

Mrs Ellison Bishop confirmed that arrangements were in hand. Mrs Anne Morison, the retiring Communion Elder, thanked Mrs Bishop for her assistance over the previous year and also thanked Mr Craig Robertson for his hard work producing letters, lists and labels for communion over many years.

b) Carer Support Group

Report (Appendix 1) was received. Dr Derek Doyle said this project would be introduced slowly. Elders would be given information sheets to hand out when they next visited their districts.

c) Stewardship Campaign

The Moderator reported that representatives from the various Teams met with Mrs Margot Robertson from the Church of Scotland Stewardship group to discuss ideas. November is to be designated as Stewardship Month. The group will meet again in June to flesh out some more concrete ideas.

d) Building Development Group

Permission was sought to procure quotes and advice on what could be done with existing space with the initial considerations being the kitchen and toilets. This would initially be in the form of free quotes by designers. The possibility of removing pews from the rear of the Sanctuary was also discussed. Mr Nigel Hicks thought the cost of this would not be justified for a couple of occasions a year considering there would need to be relocation of heating pipes. It was pointed out that this could be more often if there was more room at the back and that the idea was to promote St Anne's as a desirable event venue. Mr Hicks proposed that any decision to spend money on these quotes would be put before Session. This was agreed.

e) Sale of Belgrave Halls

A report with the sales particulars of the Belgrave Road site was now available. It was proposed that this will be marketed at offers over £350,000 and will be advertised in ESPC, Rightmove Commercial and on The Church of Scotland website. There was a suggestion that this seemed a low valuation but Mr Andrew McColl explained that the price is set at a level to generate interest. Mr Robertson asked about the possibility of building a new manse on the site but the decision to sell the site as it is, without planning permission, had

been taken at the last session meeting. The proposal that this should now go ahead, as detailed above, was approved.

f) Manse Adjudication Committee

The Session Clerk reported (Appendix 2) on the meeting that had taken place that morning with the MAC. The result was in our favour and we can now go ahead with designating the Minister's own flat as the manse. The first thing we have to do is contact the Church of Scotland solicitor to draw up a Lease Agreement between the Minister and the Kirk Session concerning the Minister's own flat. Mr Hicks asked who would pay for this. It was stated that any cost involved would be St Anne's responsibility. The Moderator expressed his relief, and delight, at the outcome and thanked the original manse group and the representatives at the hearing for their support.

g) Outreach and the Outreach Fund

The Management Team will look at how we manage charitable donations over the year. Any ideas or suggestions for charities to be supported should be given to the Session Clerks by the end of August for deliberation at the next Session Meeting.

h) Twinning Projects - Visit to St Andrew's, Lusaka

Report (Appendix 3) was received. Mrs Ann Scott said this was a very quick report with reflections from both herself and Mr William Clark who were our representatives in Lusaka. She remarked on the fantastic reaction to the gifts of the Pulpit Fall and The Celtic Cross. The congregation had been overwhelmed at the quality and workmanship of the beautiful oak cross which had been crafted by William's son Raymond.

The Moderator expressed his joy at their safe return and thanked them for their report. Session formally recorded their thanks to Ann and William.

i) Concerts in St Anne's

Mr Derek Zuckert had sent a note about the first of the 'Corstorphine Music' concerts which had been held in St Anne's on Sunday 11th May. It had been well received and was a great success. A cheque for £125 had been received from Mrs Hazel Kelly and there was £80 profit from the sale of wine. The second concert will be in The Old Parish Church on Wednesday 13th August at 1.30pm. The next concert in St Anne's will possibly be a Wind Ensemble on 4th October but this has not been confirmed. Five concerts were planned between October and May on Saturdays or Sundays, shared between The Old Parish and St Anne's. Delight was expressed at our involvement in this venture.

Mr Craig Robertson mentioned the Recital Evening and also the Social Committee Ensemble concert which had been a most enjoyable evening with a very talented group of performers and had been well attended.

6. Reports

a) Presbytery Elder

Mr Stuart Dawson gave his report raising awareness of Presbytery discussions regarding ministers and congregations leaving the Church of Scotland. Mr David Stewart gave some further background on this. Mr Dawson also mentioned there were a few property development projects being supported in some churches.

At this point Mr Dawson was re-elected as Presbytery Elder for a further year.

b) (i) Finance

Mrs Janet Hicks worked through the report (Appendix 4). Donations had gone up slightly and so had the open plate collection but it was difficult to gauge this over the long term. Hall income was down as expected. The line dancing group have pulled out due to reduced numbers attending.

Expenditure was up due to increased printing/photocopying costs, the repair of the organ motor, purchase of new pew cushions, donation last year to Carrick Knowe School, so the deficit is more but reasons for it are known.

The rates for previous users of the Belgrave Halls who had moved to Kaimes Road Hall would be raised to the new rate in two stages. It was also proposed that The Corstorphine Chess Club rate of £65 per month would be increased to £75 but this was negotiable.

The charges for weddings as proposed in the report were approved.

The question of whether the uniformed organisations should be asked for a donation was raised. The point was made that they used to do so in the past. Miss Rose Fleming proposed that they should be asked for a contribution to cover heating and lighting. This was approved by a majority with two members against.

It was noted that there had been no contribution from Showcase for their concert as yet.

The charge to be levied for use of the Sanctuary was discussed at length. Charges made by St Cuthbert's were quoted but Miss Fleming said we must not compare ourselves to them as they are a well-established venue with much better facilities. We are an unknown venue and we need to engage with potential users and then maybe put up prices. It was mooted that there should be different charges for summer and winter when heating would be required.

Mr Hicks proposed that for commercial users the rates should be £150 for summer bookings and £300 for winter bookings. This motion was carried.

No decision was taken on charges for charitable users.

It was also proposed that for ad hoc requests for use of premises, authority should be delegated to a small committee comprising the Hall Letting Convenor, the Minister and Convenor of the Finance Team. This was unanimously approved.

(ii) Fabric

Report (Appendix 5) was received. The work on the boundary wall had started today 27th May. It was reported there had been three leaks after Sunday's thunderstorms. As a result of the decision by the Manse Adjudication Committee, work on redecorating the two front bedrooms and repairing/replacing the cupola should now be a priority.

A proposal that the above quotes and also quotes from the letting agency should be sought and any decision on these quotes be delegated to the Management Team, was approved.

c) (i) Management

There will be a Management Team meeting on 18th June where organisational matters will be discussed. Session agreed that any urgent decisions that need to be made during the summer months should be delegated to the Management Team.

(ii) Education – No report

(iv) Fellowship – Report (Appendix 6) was received.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Carol Robertson for her hard work as Convenor of the Fellowship Team.

(v) Parish Mission – No Report

(vi) World Issues – No Report

(vii) Worship – No Report

d) Organisation Reports

(i) Sunday School - Report (Appendix 7) was received.

(ii) Uniformed Organisations – Report (Appendix 8) was received.

Mrs Noel Proven was thanked for these reports.

7. Moderator's items

a) Leave dates

The Minister's leave dates for the remainder of this year are:

18th August – 1st September

17th – 25th November

b) Summer Services

Over the weeks 6th July – 10th August there will be two services. The early service will be at 9.45am and the second service at the usual time of 11am. During these weeks coffee will be served between the services. A

coffee duty list is available for people to sign up. Elders were reminded that on their duty Sunday they are required for both services. Normal service and coffee will resume on Sunday 17th August.

c) Church Officer

Mrs Margaret Parkinson was formally thanked by the Moderator and Session for her contribution during her time as Church Officer.

8. Admin matters

a) Appointment of Presbytery Elder

This had been dealt with at item 6(a). Mr Dawson expressed his thanks to everyone for the support he had received during his recent illness.

b) 'Equip'- Kirkcaldy, 14th June 2014

The note from Equip regarding the seminars and workshops to be held on 14th June in Kirkcaldy had been circulated. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact the Minister.

c) Dates of next meetings of the Kirk Session

The dates of the next Session Meetings are Tuesday 30th September at 7.15pm and Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 7.30 pm, both in the Session Room.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 with the Grace.

Appendix 2

Meeting with the Manse Adjudication Committee – Tuesday 27th May

The meeting with the MAC took place this morning. Jamie and three representatives from Session myself, David Stewart and Dr Derek Doyle were present along with George Whyte representing Presbytery.

Firstly Jamie was quizzed for about 20 minutes, then we were quizzed for about 20 minutes and then George Whyte was interviewed. After deliberations the four of us were then called back in for the decision.

The three determining factors:

- 1) The Minister's own house is suitable for his circumstances and that suitable office and meeting facilities exist at the church
- 2) There will be no adverse impact on the financial position of the congregation
- 3) These were exceptional circumstances for medical reasons

all passed scrutiny and therefore I am delighted to report that the application was given the green light.

We must now press ahead with the next stage which is to contact the Church of Scotland solicitor and set up a Lease Agreement between Jamie and The Kirk Session regarding his own flat so that it can be then designated as the manse. We can also press ahead with preparing the current manse for letting. This will be discussed further under Fabric.