

St Anne's Parish Church, Corstorphine

Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting on 25 March 2015

1. Constitution

The meeting was constituted with a reading and a prayer by the Moderator.

2. Local Church Review Delegates

Three members of our Local Church Review delegates were in attendance, Rev James Aitken, Helen Hannan and Rev Peter Bluett. The other two delegates are Ken Bissett and Rev Iain May.

This was the first of two visits by delegates, a short one which precedes the full meeting on 13th May. Reverend Aitken explained how the process works. There are three parts to the paperwork which should be completed and sent electronically to the delegates. These papers covered Mission, Service, Fellowship, Discipleship and Worship. They should also form the basis of our action plan for the next 5 years. The delegates will meet to discuss the submission and we will then have two weeks to make any revisions. The papers will then be sent to Presbytery. He suggested 5 tips:

1. The more we put in the more we will get out.
2. Be honest in our self-assessment.
3. Everyone must see the contents prior to the meeting.
4. Don't leave it all to the minister.
5. Be prepared with a strong leadership structure.

Helen Hannan spoke of her experiences with the process. They had sought the views of a couple of younger members which had proved interesting. She stressed we should have a realistic action plan. Reverend Bluett said he had found the process incredibly helpful. He suggested we should think about the simple things that were do-able.

At the meeting on 13th May the delegates will meet with the minister at 7pm for about half an hour, then with the minister and Session from 7.30 – 8.45 then with the Session alone for a further 15 minutes.

The Moderator said he would continue with the completion of the papers and suggested we were already well on the way in the process.

3. Approval of the subsequent order of business

Three extra items were intimated:

- 6 g) Christian Aid
- 6 h) Summer Coffee Rota
- 6 i) Concert Arrangements

4. Attendance and Apologies

There were 40 members present. Apologies were received from 7 members.

5. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of Session Meeting on 25th January 2015 were approved.

The Minutes of the Kirk Session Meeting on 28th January 2015 were approved. There were no matters arising.

The Minutes of Session Meeting on 1st March (to approve the accounts) were also approved.

6. Congregational Business

a) Belgrave Site

The Belgrave site was finally sold on 13th March to Mr & Mrs Hardy. After a deduction of £40,000 to secure an immediate sale, and legal fees, this left a sum of £553,193.30 as proceeds of the sale. Mr Shanks had already written to Presbytery to inform them of the sale.

b) Kaimes Road Development

The Development Team will meet on Sunday 29th March after the SAM to discuss the options and costings. There is a potential levy that can be put on the money from the sale of Belgrave so we must have a sound plan in place with a strong development pledge.

c) Stewardship Team

Stewardship is on a three year rolling plan with the next two years focussing on 'time and talents'. It was agreed we should keep the Stewardship Team running with representatives from each of the other Teams serving on it. A meeting of the present team will be called shortly to decide the way forward.

d) Church Fair

Mr Zuckert reported on progress. The Fair Committee had met recently. It had been agreed that the main objective was to encourage people in the parish and Corstorphine community to visit the building and enjoy activities. Therefore there would be no entry fee. Session was encouraged to support the various stalls and asked to encourage their district, family and friends to come along. Success would be measured by having a busy building and grounds for 4 hours.

e) Sound System

Mr Zuckert reported on the upgrading of the sound system in the hall which had become necessary due to increased usage, general wear and tear, legal changes and compatibility issues. He had sought the advice of a consultant. The project will be executed in two phases. The first would be to replace the existing microphones and the second phase will be to upgrade the amplifier and speakers. The estimated budget is £1500 - £2000. The final system should only need to be switched on with no adjustment necessary. Training will be provided.

f) Congregational Records

Mr Shanks reported that the Congregational Records had been inspected on 12th March. He thanked those who contributed to getting them together. There had only been two minor comments – about closing Session Meetings held before Communion and expecting 23 Belgrave Road to have an annual inspection, which in fact it does.

In addition we presented our Safeguarding Congregational Record without it having been attested by Session. It contains 35 names, 22 of whom have either the old Enhanced Disclosure Scotland or membership of the new Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme. Mr Shanks requested that Session now attests this. This was done.

g) Christian Aid

Mrs Maclaren stated she was unable to organise Christian Aid Week this year and asked for a volunteer to take it on. Miss Tennant agreed to organise CAW this year. The Moderator thanked Miss Tennant and Mrs Maclaren.

h) Summer Coffee Rota

The Sunday Service will be at 10.30 for six weeks in the summer. A list for serving coffee after the service would be on the noticeboard in due course.

i) Concert Arrangements

The West Bend High School Orchestra from USA will be performing in St Anne's on Sunday evening 29th March. There was a plea to support this. A team will meet at 6.30 to set up and prepare supper.

7. Communion Matters

Communion Arrangements: The Communion arrangements for Sunday 5th April were in hand. Mrs Bishop stated that she will then step down as Communion Elder. Mrs Roz Gibson will take over with Mr Bill Barr becoming Assistant Communion Elder. Mrs Bishop thanked Roz and also Craig Robertson

for all their help. The Moderator thanked Mrs Bishop for her meticulous organisation of Communion Services.

Communion Services: There will be a full Communion during the service on Easter Sunday, 5th April. There will be a short Communion after the service on the last Sunday in April, the 26th. There will be an evening Communion Service on the last Wednesday of April, the 29th.

Invitation Cards: Mrs Ritchie reported that the teams of visiting elders had been reorganised. There were now three types of cards for giving to members:

A brown one with note of Elder's details:

A white one which is an invitation to Communion:

A yellow one with 'sorry I missed you'.

Mrs Ritchie thanked Mr Barr for taking over as leader of team Belmont.

The Moderator thanked elders for all the visiting they do.

8. Reports

a) Presbytery Elder

There had been one particularly interesting item in connection with vacancies. There had been two cases where there was a decent membership but voting to support the call very low. In one case with over 200 members only 50 were present at the vote with 40 for and 9 against which was not a satisfactory situation.

b) Worship & Education Team

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Noted the concern over clashes of dates and approved the circulation of a list of annual dates in September.
- iii. Noted the arrangements for Holy Week.
- iv. Thanked those involved in the Sunday School for their commitment and hard work.
- v. Noted the issues regarding the Seniors and agreed to engage as a Session with finding a solution.
- vi. Congratulated and thanked those who had helped make Messy Church a success.
- vii. Noted the arrangements for children during the summer season.
- viii. Supported the planning for more Film Nights and undertook to support such events.
- ix. Thanked Mrs Bishop for her work as Communion Elder and Mr Barr for taking on role as assistant to Mrs R Gibson for the next year.

c) Fabric Team

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Noted that the Management Team had approved the purchase of a replacement Water Heater at a cost of £930 + vat.
- iii. After a long discussion over concern about the cost and possible appearance of the notice boards, the decision to approve purchase of outside noticeboards at a cost of £3633.58 was deferred to a later meeting where further information would be available with a formal recommendation and illustrations of possible outcomes.
- iv. Agreed that volunteers should be sought to help with pruning the shrubs in the grounds.
- v. After discussion agreed the purchase of a new tower computer for the vestry at a cost of £325.
- vi. Approved spending £2845 + VAT on pointing the boundary walls.

d) Parish Mission Team

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Agreed to continue the trial of the quarterly Magazine and intermediate Newsletter for a year after which feedback will be sought.
- iii. After discussion agreed that postal recipients of the magazine should be contacted to ask if they still wanted to receive a copy by post. 34 were for this with 4 against.

9. Moderator's Items

a) Eco Church

The Moderator will be holding talks and investigating the steps needed to become an Eco Church.

b) Sunday 12th April

The minister will be on leave on Sunday 12th April and the Rev Dr Iain Whyte will take the service.

c) Extra date for LCR

The date for the extra meeting to discuss the LCR papers prior to the full LCR meeting was set for Saturday 25th April at 10am.

10. Admin Matters

a) Dates of next meetings of Kirk Session

The dates agreed for 2015 so far are:

- i. Saturday 25th April at 10am in the Guild Room (LCR)
- ii. Wednesday 13th May (LCR meeting) at 7.30pm
- iii. Wednesday 3rd June at 7.45pm
- iv. Wednesday 25th November at 7.45pm
- v. Wednesday 27th January at 7.45pm

11. Adjournment

The Kirk Session meets again on the 25th April, the 13th May and the 3rd June 2015. The meeting closed at 9.35pm with the Grace.

Note: Subsequent to this meeting it was decided that it would be prudent to move the next full Session meeting forward one week to 27th May in order to progress the Kaimes Road Development Plans in a timely manner.