

# St Anne's Parish Church, Corstorphine

## Minutes of Kirk Session Meeting of 27 May 2015

### 1. Constitution

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

### 2. Attendance and Apologies

There were 37 members present and 9 apologies.

### 3. Approval of the subsequent order of business

Three extra items were added at this point.

a) Summer Coffee Rota: There was now a list for volunteers to sign up to serve coffee after the six Summer services.

b) The Fair: Mr Zuckert said donations for the stalls could be dropped off from 5.30 on Friday and the stalls set up. Any electrical donations must be new. There was a plea for more volunteers for the various stalls. Mrs Hicks would provide floats.

c) Beginners Sunday School: Mrs Duff raised concern for the future of the Beginners Sunday School which could be down to one child. She asked if visiting elders could try to establish why parents with children might not attend church. She also mentioned that it was difficult to teach and nurture 13-year olds and upwards, and to find a role for them.

### 4. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of Session Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved. There were no matters arising. The Minutes of the brief Session Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were approved.

It was also noted that the LCR report had now been sent on to Presbytery. It was a positive report.

### 5. Presbytery Elder Report and Appointment

The Presbytery meeting had been quite a short one finishing at 8pm. There were no matters of special interest to St Anne's.

The new Presbytery Elder was appointed. Mr Neil Proven had already been approached and had agreed to have his name put forward. This was unanimously approved.

### 6. Team Reports

#### a) Fellowship Team

Mrs Ritchie presented the report.

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Thanked all elders for agreeing to the changes to the visiting groups and visitor lists.
- iii. Thanked retiring visiting elders John Lyall and Marjory Liddle for their visitation work.
- iv. Thanked the Church administrator for typing out the revised lists.

#### b) Finance Team

Mrs Hicks presented the report explaining aspects of the spreadsheet. The treasurer expressed her thanks to everyone for the income to date showing a surplus of £300 having shown a deficit of £3000 over the same period the previous year.

There was discussion about deliverance (iv). The Finance Team proposed that we leave the deficit on the General Fund as it is at present so that members can see the deficit going down each year. This could be reviewed next year.

Mr Stewart suggested that this would look bad on the accounts at Presbytery, and that we should clear the deficit on the General Fund. There was much discussion about this. Mr Hicks presented the

argument that it would be good for the accounts to show that the deficit was going down each year. Writing off the General Fund deficit might give the impression that all was well and that growth may not continue. This could be reconsidered in the future. Mr Stewart made the following proposal, seconded by Mr Zuckert:

**Counter Proposal:** That the Session agrees to write off the deficit by transferring £72,000 from the Legacy Fund to the General Fund which will in due course be reflected in the accounts.

A vote was taken with 15 for and 18 against. The counter proposal was therefore rejected.

It was also stated that we need to think about how much of the Legacy Fund should be used towards the development.

The deliverances were then considered.

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Noted the SOFA for the period 1 January to 30 April and the encouraging increase in offerings.
- iii. Approved the recommended charges and fees.
- iv. Approved by a majority the recommendation to make no change to the General Fund deficit as at 31 December 2014, at this time.
- v. Noted the decision to include financial updates in the quarterly church magazine.
- vi. Noted the on-going development of a Bribery and Procurement Policy.
- vii. Noted that the requirements under auto enrolment to a Work and Pensions scheme (NEST) were in hand.

#### **c) World Issues Team**

Mrs Scott presented the report.

The Session

- i. Received the report.
- ii. Noted the expression of appreciation to all who had assisted with the recent twinning visit.

#### **d) Convenor Resignations**

Ann Scott would be stepping down as convenor of the World Issues Team. The Moderator thanked Mrs Scott for all her hard work over the years, especially with the Twinning.

Rose Fleming has stepped down as Joint Convenor of the Fabric Team. The Moderator thanked Miss Fleming in her absence for all she had done for Fabric.

Both Mrs Scott and Miss Fleming were happy to continue serving on their respective teams.

### **6. Communion Arrangements**

Mrs Roz Gibson confirmed the arrangements for communion were in hand.

### **7. Congregational Business**

#### **a) Development Plan Document**

#### **b) Central Area Plan**

#### **c) Sanctuary Plan**

The above documents had been sent out before the meeting. Mrs Gibson asked that before we started to discuss this we should consider whether the future of St Anne's was assured. Mr Adams supported this stating perhaps our allegiances should be with the wider Church. It was agreed that the provision of churches in Corstorphine would come under scrutiny at some time in the future. However we cannot know what the future will be. We are a people of faith and we can best be prepared by looking forward.

Mr Shanks led the discussion on the proposed plans. The main concern with the central area plan was the siting of the toilets, opening onto the passage leading to the kitchen. However these would not be cubicle style toilets but completely enclosed self-contained units. There was also a suggestion that the servery could be designed as an emergency exit from the kitchen. These and any other issues can be considered before the detailed plans are produced. The plans at present show the concept of the development.

#### **d) Indicative Costs of Each Element & Financing**

Mr Shanks had summarised the indicative costs from the detailed document produced by Morham and Brotchie. The bulk of the money was already in place from the sale of the Belgrave Halls. The shortfall would require a major fundraising effort. There is a core part to the project and some optional extras that we may consider depending on available funds. The core element was costed at £750k and with the optional elements included at £885k, inclusive of VAT. There is a scheme where we could possibly claim back the VAT (£125k and £147.5k respectively).

LDN had suggested a possible time scale for the development which would have to be altered slightly to take into account the various committees the process has to go through before approval. It is hoped that the project could commence in the spring of 2016 with the work taking about 9 months. Before going further Session now needed to approve the motion that the plans for development should go ahead. This was put to the vote with 35 for and 1 against. The motion to go ahead was therefore approved.

The plans and documents will now be sent to Presbytery, along with the appropriate forms, for consideration at their Property meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June to obtain permission in principle to go ahead with the development. The papers will also be included in the June Magazine to inform the congregation.

#### **e) Teams Required for the Project**

The following teams are required to enable the project to proceed.

**Project Management:** to liaise with the developers at every stage in the process and to devise contingency plans for the period of disruption.

**Fundraising:** to spearhead pleas for donations, pledges, applications for grants and general fundraising.

**Publicity and Marketing:** to publicise the development and keep all interested parties informed of progress. At a later stage to market our premises to current and potential users and to the wider community.

**Resource Optimising:** to tackle the issue of storage by rationalising what is stored, working with each group to encourage them to clear out excess items. This can start now.

### **9. Moderator's Items**

#### **a) Messy Church**

The next Messy Church to be held in conjunction with the Old Parish will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 3– 5pm.

#### **b) Big Picnic**

The Corstorphine Churches are to hold a Big Picnic in St Margaret's Park. This will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August after morning worship. This will raise our profile as Christians in Corstorphine.

#### **c) Leave Dates**

The minister will be on leave from 1<sup>st</sup> June returning to conduct a funeral on 9<sup>th</sup> June. He will then be attending hospital on the 10<sup>th</sup> and hopes to be back preaching on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He plans to take a week off at the end of August and two weeks in November. The November services will be covered by the Stewardship Team and Evan Graber.

#### **d) New Members**

Mr and Mrs Tom and Lisa Watson wish to become members by Certificate of Transference. This was approved.

### **10. Admin Matters**

#### **a) Dates of next meetings of Kirk Session**

The dates of next Session meetings are:

- i. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45pm
- ii. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm
- iii. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.45pm

### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9.50pm with the Grace.