

ST.MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH, TOUCH, DUNFERMLINE
MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009
MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

1. PRESENT.

Mr Jack Eadie (Chairman), Mr Frank Moyes (Treasurer), Mrs Vera Wilson (Clerk) plus 29 members as per sederunt list. The Minister was absent due to a family celebration.

2. APOLOGIES.

Audrey McArthur, Marjory McIntosh, Pat Ferguson, John and Ann Rae, Val Evans, Joan Eadie, Marion Aitken, Ian and Sarah Richards.

3. OPENING REMARKS.

The Chairman reported a busy spell since the last meeting, obtaining estimates for the necessary work due to be carried out over the next two years both at the Church and the Manse. He thanked all the volunteers on the Church cleaning rota. It is still intended that this be only a temporary measure until the beginning of the new school year. Ideas for a permanent solution are to be considered carefully.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The minutes were accepted as written. Proposed by Moira Watson and seconded by Robert McCulloch.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

5.1 CAVITY WALL INSULATION. Nothing new to report.

5.2 BOARD VACANCIES. William Logan has volunteered to serve on the Board. This proposal was accepted by the meeting. Proposer, Walter Faichney. Seconded by Tom McIntosh. This still leaves two vacancies.

5.3 CHURCH OFFICER. The new Church Officer, Robert McCulloch, has now settled into his duties.

5.4 NEW COMMITTEE. The new Halls and Property Committee have met and assessed various relevant topics. These will be discussed more fully later in the meeting under the Property Convenor's Report.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

There was no correspondence.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer referred to his report, copies of which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

It was reported that our finances remain in a healthy state. The bequest from the late Nora Forrester has now been incorporated into our funds. Fabric Fund balance which services our Loan is up slightly, the increase being the addition of the half yearly interest from the Church of Scotland Deposit Fund. Balance on the Loan is steadily being reduced. Regarding the Legacy Fund, the Unit Price has risen very slightly. Our holding is 5063 units. In analysis, therefore, from January to May, the assessment is that our finances remain buoyant in spite of the current economic climate. The Treasurer went on to say that he has already started work on his 2009 report. A proposal to allow a working budget of £500 and £200 to the Minister and Organist respectively received unanimous approval.

Holders of all church records are to note that these should be handed in on Thursday, 11th June, at the Abbey Church Halls between the hours of 18.30 and 20.30 for the purpose of the annual record check.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

9. FUND RAISING COMMITTEE.

Miss Lily Miller reported that it is intended again this year to collect 10p pieces via the 'Sunshine Bags'. As in previous years, Elders are asked if they would kindly help in this task by distributing the bags during their pre-Communion visits.

10. CATERING COMMITTEE.

Nothing to report.

11. PROPERTY CONVENOR'S REPORT.

It had been decided that the report would be delivered by the Chairman due to the fact that he had been involved in several of the negotiations, along with the Property Convenor.

11.1 MANSE. One estimate had been received so far for work to be done a) Painting of gates, garage doors, rhones and front door, b) Redecoration of 2 rooms.

11.2 SCREENING FOR OVERHEAD WINDOW IN CHURCH. This to be fitted tomorrow (2nd June). The cost of the screening is to be £200 and this has been covered by an anonymous donation.

11.3 DISABLED RAMP. After further discussion following the previous meeting, it had been decided that the idea presented for a ramp to the front door was not practical. Instead it has been considered that a shorter ramp to the side door would be better suited. This would, however, also involve replacing the door with a wider one – an increase of 8 inches, plus the removal and widening of inside corridor doors. On the question of changing over the direction in which the swing doors currently open, it was noted that that these cannot be changed as they are part of the emergency exit route. Estimates had been received for both the removal of the doors and also to fit the new door. An offer by the Mens' Fellowship to pay for one of these was acknowledged with most grateful thanks. It was mentioned by the Property Convenor at this point that the bowling trolley currently stowed in the rear passage would need to be moved once the disabled access was in operation. It was considered that a building warrant would not be necessary merely to change the doors. On the subject of the availability of grants to provide/improve disabled access, enquiries have been made to Fife Council and are to be made to the Property Department at '121'. The reply from the former was a definite 'No'.

11.4 DISABLED ACCESS TO UPPER HALL. A possible answer to this problem has been discovered on the Internet by the Chairman. It is a portable platform ramp which rises one metre (the height we require) which also folds up and can be wheeled away when not in use. It also has handrails and can be used by a wheelchair user or other. The cost of this equipment is £5732 plus VAT (which would be only 5%). This includes fitting and testing. There is also a service contract available. A local supplier has been found and it is the intention of the Chairman and Property Convenor to have a look at the ramp within the next few days. It was suggested to the meeting that the money from the Nora Forrester bequest could be used to purchase this item if found suitable, along with a commemoration plaque, as Nora was always very active at our disabled services. It is also the intention of the Minister to return to holding these services.

11.5 EXTERNAL NOTICE BOARDS. The matter is still in hand.

11.6 NEW CHURCH LAPTOP. A new laptop has been purchased for church use.

11.7 COLOUR PRINTER. The purchase of a colour printer (at the cost of around £100) was deemed desirable in order to allow us to produce our own instructional and promotional material.

11.8 PAINTING VOLUNTEER. Manuel Giraldas, in addition to supplying the materials, has very kindly volunteered to sand and re-stain the front door and canopy as well as repaint the toilets. His most generous offer was gratefully accepted to a round of applause.

11.9 CHURCH WORK PROGRAMME. It has been recognised that paintwork to be done at a later date includes the outside windows of the church. Also those windows of the session room and other ante rooms are in some need of replacement.

11.10 CLEANING CONTRACT. The requirements and setting up of a new contract are to be looked at.

12. A.O.C.B.

12.1 KITCHEN FLOOR. The bad state of repair of the kitchen floor was called into question. It was agreed that this should receive urgent attention given the possibility of a serious accident waiting to happen.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Given the fact that the Guild intend returning to fortnightly meetings, the Minister has asked that the dates of future Board Meetings be revised. The next Board Meeting will, therefore, be held on Monday 24th August 2009 and the one following on Monday 30th November. Future dates to be decided at that meeting.

There being no other business, the Chairman asked the Treasurer to close the meeting with prayer.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK