

# **Minute of the meeting of the Trustees of Netherlee & Stamperland (Church of Scotland) held in the Main Sanctuary on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm**

## **1. CONSTITUTION**

The Moderator Rev Scott Blythe welcomed everyone to the meeting and constituted the meeting with prayer.

## **2. SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES**

Present were the Moderator, and 24 elders, with apologies intimated from 11 elders all recorded in the Sederunt; and in attendance Mr Robert Andrews our Independent Examiner.

## **3. TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

In the absence of the Session Clerk who had contracted a viral infection which had removed his power of speech, the Acting Clerk confirmed to the meeting that Draft 3 of the Annual Report & Accounts had been issued to all Trustees.

Following comments prior to this meeting from Elders and Robert Andrews the Report will require to be updated to become Draft 4. However, as the suggested amendments were minor and did not alter the sense of the Report, a revision was not issued for this meeting. The Report has been comprehensively updated to reflect the significant changes that occurred during 2022 – and there were many.

The Financial Review on pages 5 & 6 also required some alteration which Robert Andrews has discussed and agreed. Legacies have been altered as one was not received until early in 2023 and one had been shown as a donation by mistake instead of a legacy.

The Moderator then invited John Montgomery (Finance Convener) to make his report –

2022 has been an interesting year, here are some highlights –

- The incredible hassle and delays over money laundering regulations with Hargreaves Lansdown which prevented us from cashing in our investments when we wanted to.
- More hassle with the Bank of Scotland over signing authorisations for Lawrence which is still ongoing. Whatever happened to Customer Service!
- The generous legacies and special donations we received during 2022. With one still to come in 2023.
- The resultant deficit for 2022 on our General Fund turned out to be smaller than we expected but is still too high.
- The generous donations to the Raise the Roof Appeal circa £54,000, however that sum came from 140 members out of a congregation of 651 as at 31/12/2022, so we have some work to do to on hearts and minds. Despite this it was a very successful appeal.
- Our largest item of expenditure each year is our contribution to Ministry & Mission - £151,580 in 2022. However the church has changed the rules for 2023 calling it “Giving to Grow” and our contribution has been reduced to £129,529. This has only been possible because of the reduction in the number of Ministers and the number of Parish Churches under the Mission Plan of the Central Church. We are now one of the largest contributors to this fund within Glasgow Presbytery.
- One of Robert's recommendations last year was to suggest that we review our financial position quarterly. I can report that we do this every 2/3 months whenever the Finance Committee meets and we revise our budget if required to give a revised forecast of how we are doing.
- I would like to record my thanks to Lawrence and the Finance Committee for their support during 2022, and also to Charlie Gilmour for professionally revaluing the Manse for these accounts at no cost to the Church. This is greatly appreciated.

I could go on and I will say a bit more at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March as I believe we are still a viable force for spreading the good news, but we do face great challenges as Trustees to balance our books. Our projected deficit for 2023 has increased to £20,155 so we need to look at way of increasing our membership and income whilst trying to reduce our expenditure.

Following John's comments Scott asked for any questions or comments from the floor –

- Alistair Gow sought confirmation that the Stamperland Manse did not feature in the Accounts because the Manse was held in the name of the General Trustees and not the Netherlee and Stamperland Trustees. The Acting Clerk confirmed this was the case.
- Niall Illingworth thought it was important to focus on the deficit and the effects of inflation .If only 140 members out of a congregation of 651 had contributed to the Raise the Roof Appeal then that was where our attention needed to be focussed. Alistair Gow thought the 140 might be low as husbands and wives may have been counted as one donation when in fact it was really two. The Acting Clerk confirmed he thought Alistair was probably correct, but even if the number was 200 it still left a significant number of members who had not contributed to the appeal.
- Norrie Bolton also suggested that we should be looking 5, 10, 15 and even 20 years ahead for our expenditure. The Finance Convener agreed to take this up with the Finance Committee.
- Robert Andrews suggested we should also be looking to maximise income from the use of our Halls and also look at our wages and salaries costs. This led Niall to suggest that an exercise to identify gaps when our Halls are not in use would be beneficial. The Finance Convener took this and the other comments on board.

There being no further questions, the Moderator then invited Robert Andrews to take us through the Extract Account figures on pages 1 to 6 which he did in a clear and concise manner and then invited any questions from the floor.

As there were no questions the Moderator thanked Robert for his presentation and the work carried out by his firm in conjunction with our Treasurer Lawrence Renn and Finance Convener John Montgomery.

The Moderator asked the Trustees if they were any more questions or comments, and there were none.

Scott then asked the Trustees if the Annual Report (with agreed amendments to become Draft 4) and the Extract Accounts (pages 1-6) as presented were accepted, and the majority of those present agreed.

#### **4. OTHER KIRK SESSION BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Attestation of the Roll**

The Presbytery required that each Congregation attested the Roll of its members as at 31 December each year. (refer to Appendix A)

The Moderator asked the meeting for authority to sign the attestation document issued by the Presbytery for the year ending 31 December 2022. The meeting authorised him to sign the document which he duly did in their presence.

#### **4.2 Annual Inspection of Records.**

The Moderator advised this would take place on Monday 27 March 2023.

#### **4.3 Approval of Presbytery Elder for 2023/2024**

Following the resignation of Alastair Graham we currently have no Presbytery Elder, but we do have an additional Presbytery Elder in Alistair Gow.

The Moderator then explained the Presbytery is required to have equal numbers of Elders and Ministers, which gave rise to the need for additional Presbytery Elders. He had spoken to Alistair who was prepared to become our Presbytery Elder and relinquish his current position as an additional Presbytery Elder if no one else volunteered.

There being no volunteers the meeting approved the appointment of Alistair Gow as the Netherlee and Stamperland Presbytery Elder for 2023/2024. The Acting Clerk would arrange to have the necessary forms completed by Alistair and then passed to the Session Clerk for submission to Presbytery before the deadline later this month.

#### **4.4 Alteration to our Cluster Group's Presbytery Plan.**

The Moderator circulated a revision to our Presbytery Plan with the significant point being at item (4) which now included the wording **“A union between Greenbank and Busby following the demission or translation of one of the ministers”**.

The meeting was asked to approve this revision and to send an extract minute from this meeting to Glasgow Presbytery by 25 March 2023. The meeting approved the alteration.

#### **4.5 Sale of Stamperland Manse.**

Tony Ireland informed the meeting that the sale of the manse at 109 Ormonde Avenue had been completed with entry on 24 February 2023 at a sale price of £398,000 gross. The net proceeds of sale were £390,474.02. The proceeds of sale had been transferred to the General Trustees on the date of entry. The General Trustees had advised Tony they would not be charging us the usual 10% levy on the sale which was very welcome news.

#### **5 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS.**

- Stated Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday 26 March 2023 at approx. 11.45am
- Kirk Session at 7.30 pm on Monday 24 April 2023
- Kirk Session at 7.30 pm on Monday 5 June 2023

#### **6. CLOSE WITH TRHE GRACE.**

The Moderator closed the meeting with all present standing and saying the grace.

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Rev Scott Blythe  
Minister

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Stuart Buchanan  
Session Clerk