

# **Netherlee and Stamperland (Church of Scotland)**

## **Kirk Session via Zoom**

**7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### **1 CONSTITUTION**

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

### **SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES**

There were 48 Elders present with apologies from 8 Elders as per the Sederunt Sheet.

### **2 DISCUSSION TOPIC**

Scott introduced the proposal to spend £40,663 on the upgrading and electrical certification required in our Stamperland building, and asked Iain Alexander (Fabric Convener) to address the meeting.

Iain explained the situation partly emerged from a lot of work done by Norrie Bolton and Tony Ireland following the decision by Glasgow Presbytery to not to give us permission to open our Stamperland building for Worship. Scott asked Iain Alexander, Norrie Bolton, Stuart Buchanan, Tony Ireland and Allan Mathieson to join him in a small group to consider the pros/cons of the situation.

The issue relates to safety certificates including electrical installations, which were known about previously, but a solution had been held in abeyance as consideration was being given to possible improvements to the building. Rather than spend money twice a plan to do it once made sense back then, however Covid-19 has changed things. Iain intimated the approximate costs to fix the Halls (£24,000) and the Sanctuary (£17,000).

It was felt that as we are approaching the time when Youth Organisations and a variety of community groups will wish to start using our buildings again, we don't want to exclude them for any longer than necessary by not opening all our buildings. Whilst we currently don't have a capacity issue with Worship, it was felt that we should fix both the Halls and the Sanctuary at the same time.

It is accepted that it is a substantial sum whilst there may be some uncertainty about the long term future of all our buildings. However, it is clear from the current occupancy (impact of Covid-19 aside) that we need both now. In addition, our stated mission includes serving the community and providing space for our community to use. At present we cannot do this without both buildings.

We also considered what grant funding might be available. The reality is that because we have the money, and in funding terms it is a small amount, it is unlikely we would receive much, and what we receive might take many months to appear due to the cyclical nature of the process. It was made known to the meeting that Allan Mathieson (Finance Convener & Treasurer) has attended that last meeting about this and backed the proposal.

Scott opened the meeting to comments and questions:

- Alastair Graham – advised that the proposal had been approved by Glasgow Presbytery – Stuart explained that this was thanks to the experience and expertise of Tony Ireland who submitted the necessary paperwork in time for the August Presbytery Property meeting. Scott accepted this was “cart before horse” but as the next Presbytery Property meeting could be as far away as November, this had been a timely and sensible decision.

- Elaine Murray – informed us that today the Scout Association are permitting face to face meetings of up to 30 member outdoors or indoors, subject to approved Scout Association Risk Assessment – so very happy to hear the Halls may be opening – when? Iain whilst reluctant to pick a specific date suggested that with a “fair wind” behind us, maybe 6 to 8 weeks. Concern about not being aware of the dangerous electrics was raised.
- Helen Illingworth – praised the thorough work done to get to this point, but questioned how long we can realistically maintain two sets of buildings. Iain answered that while that is fair question, this is a short term issue and the group felt this was too early to “throw the towel in”. Scott commented that this year we budgeted for two buildings, and so far despite Covid-19 we’re doing reasonably well financially. It was also stated that Hall rental income from the Stamperland building is about £10,000pa, and that the former Stamperland manse also brings in about £10,000pa in rental income. We also have this property to sell if we need to raise capital. Helen accepts that the remedial works needs done, but thinks we need to think about the future too. Stuart agreed and said the vision we set back at our Elders Conference back in March has been ambushed by the pandemic.
- Glenda Cook – made the point that when the furlough ends this October there is likely to be empty buildings all over our communities. We should not create another one – our building will serve the community when we get to the other side of the pandemic. That is a compelling short term reason for doing the work.
- Alan Fairlie – felt we should not commit to the expenditure of approximately £41,000 without knowing what other costs we face say in the next 3 years. Scott agreed more information might have been helpful, however he thought the only major work was the potential of replacing the roof on the Netherlee building. Iain concurred and suggested an indicative cost of £250,000.
- Dagmar Kerr – reluctantly agreed the work should be done, but felt Covid-19 had stopped us in our tracks and we should be doing more.
- Alastair Graham – countered the view that we’re being “pushed into a corner” by this, instead he felt Iain had made it a very practical solution that will allow us to better serve the community.
- Marie Wilson – says go for it – hope is a big part of Christian belief – many of the older and vulnerable members in the Stamperland community have had great uplift simply discovering we are considering this tonight.

Scott asked if we are ready to indicate our decision on this proposal.

The majority of those present agreed to approve the proposal.

### **3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

These had been circulated previously but due to Covid-19 have not been approved:

Kirk Session 01.12.19	Those present approved the minute.
Kirk Session 03.02.20	Those present approved the minute.
Elder’s Conference 08.03.20	Those present approved the minute.
Netherlee Trustees 11.03.20	Those present approved the minute.
Kirk Session 17.06.20	Those present approved the minute.

#### 4 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. To note the resignations of Jackie Silcock, Janis Herriot and Fiona & Walter McNeil. They have all been written to thanking them for their service by the Session Clerk. To also note the sudden death of Stuart Bruce, an Elder of many years, and so much more, in the Stamperland community – funeral on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – private committal at Linn followed by private service at Williamwood at 2.30pm. Those wishing to pay respect may gather outside the church.
2. We now have our Unitary Deed from Edinburgh. Copy to 2020 Property Register (Cameron Main). Original to Donald Henderson (solicitor).
3. Scott asked should we open for a short service on Wednesday mornings at Netherlee– those present agreed. Email from Scott to explain more and how to volunteer and support.
4. Virtual coffee morning in November to raise funds for Poppy Scotland. Email from Anne Mann via Church Office to explain more and how to volunteer and support.
5. Scarecrow Trail planned for Sep/Oct by neighbours who organised windows at Christmas last year. Email from the Church Office to explain more and how to volunteer and support.
6. There seems to be plans to close some branches of the Citizens Advice Bureau in some of the deprived areas of our city. Email from Marie Wilson via the Church Office to explain more and how to protest against this, if you so wish to do so.
7. Meeting Calendar – coming out, guess what, coming out on an email from the Church Office. **The next scheduled Kirk Session is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm.** The calendar also contains dates for all the groups. As they are likely to be held by Zoom (other platforms are available) I will leave it up to the Conveners to either stick with the dates shown, or if more convenient to you and your group, to shift them slightly. Whatever you choose, if you hold a meeting can you please remember to submit a report in time for the next Kirk Session – thanks.

#### 5 CLOSE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

---

Scott Blythe  
**Minister**

---

Stuart Buchanan  
**Session Clerk**