

Netherlee and Stamperland Church

Kirk Session met at 7.30pm on Monday 5th September 2022

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 35 Elders present with apologies from 13 Elders as per the Sederunt sheet.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with three additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC(S) – *Let's redesign eldership*

Stuart thanked those Elders who had submitted information on their districts. Clearly this had not been explained well enough, so apologies for that, as the answers supplied ranged from an in depth history to simply an A, two B's and three C's which were reminiscent of my 'O' grade results!

Scott informed Session that from several conversations at our recent Cluster Meetings it was clear that Busby and Greenbank were wrestling with the same problems. It has been suggested that we take a day and work together at how we can solve this issue, as in all three places there is a strong desire to show care to our members.

Scott asked Session if we were comfortable with this idea, the majority of those present agreed.

In the meantime Stuart will look at re-issuing an improved version of the request for information at which time he will advise those Elders who do not need to re-submit their information.

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention:

Rollkeeper – Mabel Bell and Stuart Buchanan reported that since the previously issued report Caroline MacVey, Isobel Milligan, Violet Walker and Margot Young have asked to lift their lines.

Finance Convener – John Montgomery addressed the following:-

- We have received £12,600 from the estate of Margaret McKenzie.
- Retiral offering on 05.09.2022 for Lodging House Mission was £451.30, plus an additional £60 received from the sale of baking apples.
- Raise the Roof appeal draft letter and accompanying photographs were circulated prior to this meeting.
 - Scott asked if there were any comments or questions:-
 - Suggested that the way VAT was mentioned was not as clear as it could be, but the consensus was that the recovery of VAT should be mentioned.
 - A question was raised about the inclusion of the design and consultancy fees.
 - Scott asked Session if we were comfortable to let the Session Clerk, Finance Convener and Tony Ireland take these points under consideration to finalise the letter for distribution in the next week? The majority of those present agreed.
 - Agreed to intimate the start of the Raise the Roof appeal on Sunday 11th September.
 - Letter will posted to all members to ensure that everyone gets it at the same time.

Children & Youth Ministry – Helen Illingworth reminded Session of the expanded format of the Christmas Tree Festival taking place on Saturday 10th December and asked for volunteers to help with this event.

Planning & Communication – Diane Levey outlined the rationale behind the Come & See event that will take place Saturday 1st October. After the pain and disruption to our community caused by the pandemic and the loss of the Stamperland building, this is an attempt to “re-launch” ourselves. To show the community we are based in what happens in our buildings. All church organisations and hall lessees have been contacted and asked to take part. To show what they get up to. To show all that we do. Participants will be able to set up from 10am. The event runs from 1 to 4pm. We’re looking for any additional help to spread the word. We’ll have a poster but anyone with access to things like School PTA, or social media like Netherlee Neighbours or any WhatsApp groups – please get in touch with Diane!

Transition Working Group – update from Norrie Bolton addressed the following:-

- Cradle Rolls
 - Scott intimated we should purchase “art portfolio” style folders to store them safely, and he is to ask Margaret Fear (archivist) if she would be willing to make appointments with folk who might want to view them. Scott asked if a legacy area still being thought of?
- Book of Remembrance
 - Once safe to do so (roof works) the idea is to place on table at LHS of pulpit. To become book for Netherlee and Stamperland. After the meeting Jan Barr volunteered to update the book as she had been doing previously – offer gratefully accepted by Session Clerk.
- Items moved to Netherlee
 - Big thank you to all involved.
- Storage at Netherlee
 - Question asked about the rationalising of storage in Netherlee.
 - Iain Alexander (Fabric Convener) reported a small subgroup is looking at this. Progress is slow and steady and has uncovered organisations no longer in existence.
- Re-homing of items
 - Good News, and many other bibles and hymn books donated to many places.
 - Many chairs and tables likewise donated to many places.
 - Excluding the digital organ (previously reported £5,000) another £1,086 in donations.
- To the “dump”
 - Significant volumes of “stuff” by volunteers to Greenhags Recycling Centre – thanks!
 - Two uplifts of “stuff” required by Joe Junk – a good result.
- Pipe Organ
 - Expected to be removed by O’Donovan Organs between 5th and 8th September.
- Stained Glass Window
 - Removed and replaced by plain glass at no cost to the church by Robin Webster.
- Church bell(s)
 - The larger original bell (from Skelmorlie Church) and the smaller bell (donated by member and retired fire officer David Dundas) will have to remain in situ until (a) the site is purchased by a developer who will remove them as the tower is demolished; or (b) someone pays to get them down.
- Pendant Light
 - This will be returned to the McKee family who donated it in the first instance.
- Communion Table and Reading Lectern
 - Sadly no new home for these items – any last minute ideas to Norrie Bolton.

Scott asked if there were any comments or questions, there were none. Scott thanked all the members of the Transition Working Group for dealing with such a large and difficult project so well.

Scott informed the meeting that the General Trustees had received 14 bids for the Stamperland buildings. They are currently progressing with a cash bid coming from someone who plans to operate a nursery from the site, and has indicated they may allow community use of some parts of the building they do not use for this purpose. It is hoped that the deal may be concluded by the end of September or maybe early October. We will update you with fuller information when it is possible.

Correspondence – the Clerk intimated the following:-

- Presbytery of Glasgow (12/07/22) Citation re Property Committee meeting to discuss roof
- Presbytery of Glasgow (12/07/22) Extract minute with permission to progress with roof
- General Trustees (24/07/22) agreement re loan (£180,000) to assist with slate purchase
- Email conversation (25/07/22) confirming organ removal with Padraig O'Donovan
- Thank you letter (18/08/22) re Hymn books from Oakshaw Trinity Church in Paisley

Food Hygiene – just a big thank you from Barbara Cochrane to all involved in running and attending the Soup & Pud lunch which raised £640.

Safeguarding – Bruce Young should have been away on business but sadly has instead caught a bad dose of Covid. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy and full recovery. In his place the Clerk made the following points:-

- We record our sincere thanks to Margot Young for her many years of service in our church to Safeguarding, known as many other things in her time.
- Bruce now needs a new assistant. Following the meeting Jane Curror spoke with Scott and the Clerk. She asked to be demitted from Health & Safety (Stamperland) and instead support Bruce in Safeguarding. This offer was greatly welcomed by Scott and the Clerk.

Scott asked the Trustees if they had any more questions. There were none.

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. The majority of those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Kirk Session minutes of 13.06.2022, 24.07.2022 and 22.08.2022 approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Hall accommodation conflict due to restrictions on our space during roof works

Niall Illingworth raised this issue on behalf of the Monday Lunch Club which would wish to use the Large Hall when the Sanctuary is out of bounds, which with the lift access is feasible as some clients are in wheel chairs. This use will clash with the Scottish Country Dance group which hires the Large Hall from October onwards. Niall felt the church use should take preference over a commercial hire, but as the dancers have been with us since “Moses was a boy” he understands sensitivity is required. They could use the Upper Hall, but one of their members has mobility issues which may preclude this. Niall said there may be a slight issue with timings at the end of the Monday Lunch Club as CASS enter the building. He requested the Clerk (apparently has gravitas) write to all concerned to seek compromise. Clerk happy to do so (probably via the Church Secretary who deals with Lessees) once Niall email the details of the issues to the Clerk.

Neighbour of Stamperland Church building asking about ground maintenance

Clerk to write and thank him for cutting the hedge and say we're looking after building and grounds until they are sold. We will inform them once the sale is completed.

Volunteers to open/close building if our halls are booked for a party

Not viable to offer this to the community as so far only 2 volunteers. After a brief discussion it was clear that Session we need to try harder and the following proposal was made:-

- What is involved?
 - The task is simply to open and/or close (or both) the building.
 - No set up or break down work is involved.
 - Elspeth will ensure all date and timing information is supplied.
 - Once we have the “rota” we’ll decide what we need to do re keys.
- How will it work?
 - Volunteers give their name to Elspeth in the Church Office.
 - When we get a request she asks someone on the list.
 - Yes can do – sorted.
 - No – move to next person.
 - Repeat until sorted.
- Elspeth will keep record to avoid asking the same person(s) too often.

8 FUTURE MEETINGS and our next COMMUNION

- Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 7th November 2022
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued
- Communion at Netherlee at 10:30am on Sunday 4th December 2022
 - Meeting at 9:00am to help David Beckett (Communion Elder) are Elinor Mair, Niall Illingworth and Elaine Balfour.
 - Thanks to Elinor who has committed to help David on an ongoing basis.

9 CLOSE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

ANNEX WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

Scott Blythe
Minister

Stuart Buchanan
Session Clerk