

ABBOTSHALL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Kennedy Hall

Thursday 19th June 2014

The Congregational Board meeting was constituted with a prayer.

Sederunt:

Present were the Minister in the chair and 15 Board Members. Apologies received from 10 Members

The Minister read the letter from Evelyn Armstrong in which she advised that she felt that she could no longer to take the responsibility as a Trustee and intimated that she resignation from the Congregational Board of Abbotshall Parish Church with immediate effect.

Resignation:

Letter has been received from Mrs. Evelyn Armstrong intimating her resignation from the Congregational Board. The resignation was accepted with regret. Evelyn was thanked for the work and support she has given to the Board over many years.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2014 were approved without change.

Matters Arising:

Church Bell – at the meeting on 21st March 2013 concern was expressed that the Bell Pintles were worn making the bell difficult to pull. The Pintles have been lubricated and the Bell now moves more freely.

Action: Closed

Water Rates – At the meeting on 27th March the Board were advised that Churches currently do not pay water rates but this exemption is due to end in 2015 after which Churches would probably be charged rates for water and sewage. The Solicitor to the Church of Scotland has recommended that Churches write to the Government requesting continuation of the water rate exemption. Letters have to be submitted by June this year. The Board approved that a letter be sent.

Action: Property Convenor

Property:

The Property Convenor referred to the Church Property Maintenance spread sheets he had distributed to Board Members by email. The spread sheets show the maintenance work completed and costs incurred so far in 2014 work.

Work recently completed:

- Infants play area in the Church.
- Refurbishment of the Toilet. Thanks were express to Jim & Jane Gilmour for re-decorating the toilet area.
- Halls Water heater replaced as old heater now obsolete & no spare parts available.
- Organ serviced. N.B. this work carried out in Q2 when usually carried out in Q4.

2014 Work in hand:

All other work is of a routine nature and is either safety certificate or of Landlord requirement and is in accordance with the Budget.

Other Maintenance Work:

No other maintenance work was approved at this time though some new work has been identified and requires consideration;

- Lightning conductor on Bell Tower requires re securing;
- Tower Parapet requires re pointing;

These maintenance items require finances to be sourced before they can be undertaken.

Graveyard Boundary Wall:

The Property Convenor advised that preliminary work had started on repairing the Graveyard Wall adjacent to Abbotshall Road. This work is expected to start mid-August and take 10 weeks to complete. The Council are looking for a safe place to store material from the 30 exhumed graves. The Property convenor will be invited to a meeting with the Council to hear the detail of this work.

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The Board agreed that the use of the Crypt would be offered to the Council for the storage of materials recovered from the graves.

No request has been received, so far, for a Service of re-interment.

Halls:

The Property Convenor referred to the Halls 2014 spread sheet showing the organisation using the Halls and the actual income for Q1 & Q2 and estimated income expected for the rest of 2014.

The Property Convenor advised that he continues to receive enquiries into hiring the Halls for functions and by organisations.

Concern was expressed over the late payment of Q1 invoices by the MRB Dance and Gamers Groups. This situation will be monitored for future action if required.

Guide Groups - The Treasurer advised that the Guide Groups have not been making payment towards for the use of the Halls and the cost of heating, electricity etc. Euan Fraser advised that he had discussed the matter with the 3 Guide Group Leaders and had made a suggestion that they impose an additional levy on the Guide Members to pay for the hire of the Hall. The Guide Leaders had indicated a reluctance to raise an additional levy to pay for rental of the Halls. The Board agreed that the Guide Groups must be asked to pay the Hall rental rate to cover heating, lighting, maintenance and insurance. Euan Fraser's offer to pursue this matter was accepted.

Action: Euan Fraser

Finance:

The Treasurer distributed a copy of the financial situation showing income and expenditure year to date and provided an explanation of income and expenditure to 31st May 2014. He advised that year to date expenditure had exceeded income by £1.3K. The projected estimated over spend to year end would be £16.5K.

Photocopier – The Treasurer advised that the photocopier had reached the end of its working life and should be replaced. He advised that the rental charges, over many years, had been of a dubious and unfair nature and recommended that we should consider purchasing a printer/copier rather than enter into another rental agreement.

- Costs of purchasing a suitable printer / copier, with 1 year warranty is £600 plus £200 for 1 year supply of ink.
- In reply to a question, there is money in the budget for the provision of a printer.
- The rental agreement will be terminated forthwith and no more money will be paid for the old printer.

The Board approved the purchase of a copier / printer as recommended.

Organisations:

Morna Scriven reported on a visit she and Jenny McLeod had made to the Choir on Sunday 20th April. They reported that the choir felt that singing would be stronger if everyone sat together in the Church. The Choir would like to welcome more members to their ranks, ability to read music was not essential.

AOCB:

Bike & Hike 2014 - Jenny MacLeod advises that the Bike & Hike is being organised by EMMS International and will take place on Saturday 13th September. And will be a Coastal Route Challenge. Participants will be able to visit churches on the route. Churches not situated near the coastal path are encouraged to raise money in other ways. Money raised in sponsorship is shared between the churches and EMMS International, who use the funds to improve healthcare in Malawi, India and Nepal.

As Abbotshall Church is too far off the route it will not be open to receive participant. However, it coincides with the monthly Coffee Morning so participants can call into the Hall if they wish to deviate.

A Holy Strollers team will take part and would appreciate sponsorship. Jenny McLeod proposed that Abbotshall should retain its share of money raised for the Fabric Fund and. not donated to another charity.

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Board Minutes - A request was made for hard copies of the draft Board Minutes to be made available for the Board Members who do not have access to email. These will be placed, for collection, in the Church.

Action: Clerk to the Board

The next meeting of the Board will be held in the Kennedy Hall on Thursday 25th September 2014 at 1930 hrs."

There being no further business the meeting was closed with the Grace.

Chair

Clerk