

ABBOTSHALL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Kennedy Hall

Thursday 25th September 2014

The Congregational Board meeting was constituted with a prayer.

Sederunt:

Present were the Minister in the chair and 14 Board Members. Apologies received from 11 Members

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2014 were approved without change.

Matters Arising:

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.

Petitioning on this matter has been successful. Charities including churches with incomes below £200k per year will continue to be exempt from paying water rates.

Action: Closed

Board Minutes – At the meeting on 27th March a request was made at 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.

Draft Board Minutes for 19th June were placed in the Church and future meeting draft minutes will be placed in the Church.

Action: Closed

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.

The Guide Leader handed a letter, relating to the above, to the Chair of the Board at the meeting. The letter will be read and considered.

Action: Euan Fraser

Property:

Halls Break in and Church Roof Damage:

- The Property Convenor gave an account of the damage to the Church Roof and theft and damage to the Church Halls when broken into, highlighting the potential for more serious consequences due to leaking gas from the removal of gas pipework to the boiler and water leakage. The Halls have had to be closed until the repairs have been made.
- Cost of repairs to the Church Roof and the repairs and replacement of damaged boiler and pipework replacement is £4756 and loss of Halls income due to closure is £682. Insurance will cover most of repair costs and loss of income but Church will be liable to pay the insurance excess.
- Insurers have indicated that they may recommend installing an alarm system and painting drain pipes and gutters with anti-climb paint. Estimated installation cost of an alarm system is £1500 plus annual maintenance of £280. Additional cost may be incurred for installing a telephone line as the alarm would have to be connected to a call centre.
- The existing boiler has been put back into service but no longer complies with new regulations with regard to ventilation. Boiler is 36 years old. Boiler can be operated for a short period but must be replaced as it is in breach of new safety regulations. Estimated cost of replacement is

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- £3.5k plus VAT. Quotations will be requested from several installers. Board gave the Property Convenor approval to obtain quotes for installing a replacement boiler and to progress with replacement. Property Convenor advised that he would keep the Board informed about progress.
Action: Property Convenor
- Consideration is to be given to raising funds for the replacement boiler through a special fundraising campaign.
Action: Board

Maintenance;

- Routine and statutory maintenance is progressing in accordance with the approved 2014 Maintenance Schedule.

Halls:

- The Property Convenor advised that he continues to receive enquiries into hiring the Halls for functions and meetings and from training organisations.
- The 2015 budget should consider increasing charges for the use of Halls though consideration to be given to ensuring that organisations ability to pay should be taken into account.
Action: Finance Committee

Finance:

The Treasurer distributed a copy of the financial situation showing income and expenditure year to date and an analysis of funding year on year from 2009 and provided details of income and expenditure to 31st August 2014.

Income over this year has increased slightly. To 31st August '14 expenditure is £2936 above income received. The projected over spend to year end has reduced slightly but is estimated to be in the region of £13K and we will have to take money from the Reserves in order to meet our commitments.

We need to encourage more giving and to remind Members of the Congregation of the advantage of signing up to the Gift Aid scheme.

Organisations Reports:

None

Other Reports:

Bike & Hike 2014 - Jenny MacLeod advises that the Bike & Hike, renamed the Coastal Challenge, took place on Saturday 13th September. The Abbotshall Church participants raised £121 and between £50 and £60 should be returned to Abbotshall for Church funds.

AOCB:

The Minister advised that there is a wedding on Saturday 26th September and called for a volunteer to act as Beadle.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in the Kennedy Hall on Thursday 29th January 2015 at 1930 hrs.

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

Chair

Clerk