

ABBOTSHALL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Kennedy Hall

Thursday 26th March 2015

The Trustees and Congregational Board meeting was constituted with a prayer.

Sederunt:

Present were the Minister in the chair and 16 Trustees and Board Members. Apologies received from 7 Trustees and Board Members.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2015 were approved without change.

Matters Arising:

Central Heating Boiler for Halls - At the Meeting on 25th September 2014 the Board were advised that Boiler can be operated for a short period but must be replaced as it is now in breach of new safety regulations. The Board gave the Property Convenor approval to obtain quotes for installing a replacement boiler and to progress with replacement.

The Property convenor advised that Tenders for installing a replacement central heating boiler have been received from 2 companies. A third company has declined to quote as they are closing down the gas installation part of their business. 3 other companies failed to quote. Tender from Wishart is £5037 all inclusive. Tender from N.G.Bailey is £6069 plus additional costs for increased pipework and replacement meter. The Property Convenor recommended accepting Wishart's tender.

A number of questions were asked and some concern was expressed regarding Wishart's experience in this work. Property Convenor advised that we had used Wishart annually and he was satisfied with their work.

The Board authorised the Property Convenor to accept Wishart's tender.

Action: Property Convenor

Draft budget for 2015 – At the Board Meeting on 29th January 2015 a draft budget for 2015 was distributed to Trustees. The Treasurer reported that this first draft of a budget indicated a deficit of £10K based on cautious estimates of income and incomplete fabric costs. The Finance Committee, along with the Property Convener, will draw up the next budget draft for Trustees' consideration.

Action: Treasurer

KART donation – At the Board Meeting on 29th January 2015 a point was made that some of the excess in income shown in 2014 was due to not giving to KART. It was proposed and agreed that a donation of £1k should be made to KART early in 2015.

Action: Treasurer

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statement for 2014:

The Treasurer reported that the final version of the Annual Report & Financial Statement for 2014 had been received back from the Independent Examiner. He advised that two minor changes had been made to wording in the report.

The Trustees approved the signing of the Annual Report & Financial Statement for 2014. The Session Clerk and Treasurer signed the Accounts on behalf of the Trustees.

It was noted that a date would be required to be agreed for the Annual Stated Meeting of the Church Members to inform them of the contents of the Annual Report & Financial Statement for 2014.

Finance:

A copy of the Budget for 2015, as agreed by the Finance Committee, was distributed to the Board Members and Trustees present. The Treasurer reported that at this stage it would appear that there would be a deficit of £11k at the end of 2015 and he spoke on how the expenditure and income must be managed. It was agreed that the budget, as presented, should be published to Presbytery and to the congregation.

In response to a question the Treasurer advised that the Boiler replacement cost estimate is included under Fabric Maintenance costs.

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The 2015 Budget was approved by the Board.

The Board expressed their thanks to the Treasurer for his hard work in once again preparing the Financial Statement and Budget.

Property & Halls:

The Property Convenor issued an update of the 5 year rolling maintenance plan for the Church Properties. He advised that the Annual inspection of properties had identified additional items and these had been included in the rolling maintenance plan.

In response to a question the Property convenor advised that a business risk assessment is carried out on all maintenance items in the 2015 Plan to identify the risk of delaying work.

The Quinquennial Survey of Church property is due this year and it may too identify other maintenance work which will have to be included in the Maintenance Plan and decided upon by the Board.

Halls:

The Property Convenor advised that there continue to be new enquiries and bookings for the use of the Halls by organisations and individuals for private functions.

Organisations Reports:

No reports.

Other Reports:

No reports.

AOCB:

The Treasurer read from a letter he had received from 121 George Street in which it stated that the Ministries and Missions payment for 2015 required from Abbotshall Parish Church is £46,947. The letter advised how this money is spent in financing the work of the Church of Scotland around the world.

In response to a question the Treasurer advised that this size of this payment is based upon the Church income.

A concern was raised regarding Abbotshall holding of Alliance Trust shares and how Abbotshall proposed to vote on a proposal by a USA base company to force the board to accept the nomination of 3 non-executive directors. Raymond Duncan expressed concern that this proposal may not be in the interests of small shareholders. He went on to suggest that Abbotshall should consider retaining the services of a financial advisor.

The Treasurer advised that he Finance Committee had discussed this type of issue and pointed out that a financial advisor would cost money. In the case of voting Abbotshall support the recommendations of the Board of Company Directors.

Post Meeting note:

The Treasurer advised that he had received information regarding a resolution by Elliott Advisors UK Ltd to nominate three persons onto the Alliance Trust board of directors. The Treasurer confirmed that Abbotshall have voted their shares against the resolution

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Church Members will be held in the Church on Sunday 26th April '15.

The next Board meeting will be held in the Kennedy Hall on Thursday 18th June 2015 at 1930 hrs."

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

Chair

Clerk