

ABBOTSHALL PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Kennedy Hall

Thursday 27th March 2014

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

Sederunt:

Present were the Minister in the chair and 20 Trustees and Board Members.

Apologies received from:

Messrs W. Beveridge, J. Browning, R. Duncan, E. Fraser, R. Michael, Mrs. Falconer, Dr. E. Smith,
Mrs M. Hope, A. Steward, R. Wright, M. Hope;

The Minister read the letter from Jim Henderson intimating his resignation from the Congregational Board of Abbotshall Parish Church. His resignation is due to moving away from Kirkcaldy to be closer to his daughter in Dingwall. The Board expressed their thanks and best wishes to Jim and his wife for their future.

Financial Statement:

The Treasurer advised that the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2013 for Abbotshall Parish Church had been sent to the Independent Examiner and had been accepted by him without need for change.

The Treasurer asked for the Trustees approval to accept the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2013 and authorise the Session Clerk and Treasurer to sign. The Trustees accepted the Financial Statement and approved it for signing and submission to Presbytery. The signed Financial Statement will be submitted to Presbytery.

The Treasurer advised that the Independent Examiner had expressed concern about the annual deficit. The Treasurer had explained that action was being taken to remedy this situation through the Stewardship of Money campaign being run this summer.

The Chair advised that Trustees business was concluded and Congregational Board business would commence.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30th January 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 Property Convenor advised that the greasing of the Pintles would be undertaken before resumption of Services in the Church; Remains outstanding.

Action: Property Convenor.

Property:

The Property Convenor referred to the Church Property Maintenance spread sheets he had distributed by email. The spread sheets show the maintenance work completed and costs incurred so far in 2014 and the proposed work and estimated cost for the rest of 2014.

Concern was expressed about spending money on maintenance work when the draft budget for 2014 showed a substantial deficit. Considerable debate ensued regarding the cost of undertaking maintenance work in 2014 due to the continuing shortfall of income versus expenditure and whether or not the Board should authorise any work to take place other than that required for safety purposes.

Concern was also expressed about getting accurate cost estimates for maintenance work and fear that costs could increase substantially as had been the case with the Play Area in Church and the Water Heater in the Kitchen.

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The need to tell the Congregation about the serious financial situation was expressed. It was pointed out that the Stewardship of Money programme is being prepared at this time and will be rolled out to the Congregation. The view was expressed that we are unlikely to see any benefit in 2014 from this Stewardship campaign.

Church Toilet Refurbishment:

The necessity of carrying out the proposed work on the Church Toilet, at an estimated cost of circa £3K, was discussed at length.

- Concern was expressed about potential cost escalation, as had been seen with work on the Play Area.
- Ways of reducing the cost by limiting work to essential work only were discussed;
- Offers were made by Jim Gilmour and Alex Elder to carry out the painting work thus reducing the cost by circa £650; This offer was accepted ;
- The Minister agreed that her Office Toilet could be used as an alternative to the Church Toilet;

A proposal to carry out the work was put to a vote with the caveat that volunteer assistance to carry out painting be accepted and a tight control be maintained on the cost of the work and work not to progress beyond the estimated cost without referral back to the Board. This proposal was voted upon and approved by substantial majority.

Other Maintenance Work:

No other maintenance work was approved at this time, though it was accepted that statutory safety work would have to be carried out.

Water Rates:

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. It has been recommended by the Solicitor to the Church of Scotland 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

Halls:

The Property Convenor referred to the Halls 1st Quarter Payments/Income spread sheet showing the organisation using the Halls and the expected income for Q1 which is expected to be £1170.

Further enquiries have been received from groups and organisation wishing to rent the Halls.

The Local Authority rates have increased for use of the Halls for election purposes.

Finance:

The Treasurer presented an amended Budget for 2014 explaining that the Finance Committee had reviewed the draft budget presented to the Board at the January meeting. This Budget still shows a deficit of £21.5K. It was pointed out that the income shown in the 2014 Budget is down on the 2013 income but some of this is due to the Treasurer taking a very cautious approach to expected income. It was emphasised that there is an urgent requirement to increase the income.

A proposal was made to accept the 2014 Budget with the £21.5 deficit. The 2014 Budget was approved with the caveat that no additional expenditure is authorised and that ways of increasing income are identified.

Organisations:

Jenny McLeod reported that the 2013 Bike and Hike group had raised £123.75 and £56.88 had been given to Abbotshall Parish Church. This cheque has been given to the Treasurer.

Morag Michael reported on a visit she had made together with Anne Steward to the Rainbows' on 27th February. They reported on the Rainbow's activities they had witnessed and reported the organisation to be in good heart;

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Jim Gilmour reported on a visit that he and Tom Scott had made to the 86th Scout Group on 28th February. They reported on the Scouts' activities they had witnessed and reported the Scout Group to be in good heart.

Janice Scott reported on a visit that she and Ann Gardner had made to the Brownie Guides on 27th February. They reported on the activities they had witnessed and reported that they had found the Brownie Guide group to be in good heart;

It was reported that the Celebrate and Discover event on Saturday 22nd March had been a success and thanks were expressed to those who had participated. Abbotshall had the biggest number of helpers.

Social Committee:

Abbotshall Presents "An Audience with Richard Michael and Family".

Jane Gilmour requested that everyone makes an effort to sell tickets for the musical event being planned for Friday 23rd May. She requested that ticket sellers record the names of those to whom tickets have been sold.

The Social Committee requests help from the Board Members on the evening as follows:

- Helpers to sell programs and raffle tickets
- Drivers to ferry people to and from the Concert;
- Sponsorship to cover cost of refreshments;

Next Meetings:

The Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation will take place in the Church, after the Service, on Sunday 27th April;

The next meeting of the Board will be held in the Kennedy Hall on Thursday 19th June 2014 at 1930 hrs. "

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

Chair

Clerk