

Minutes of Foveran Congregational Board Meeting in Holyrood Chapel, Newburgh, at 7.30pm on

Tuesday, 5 June, 2018

The Board met and was constituted with prayer by Rev Ricky Reid.

Apologies were received from Sue Edwards and Lindsey Dickie

Sederunt: Rev Ricky Reid, Chairman; Pamela Sloan, Clerk; Mary Smith, Alasdair Sloan, Andrew Mitchell, Margaret Wilson, Jane Bradford, John Fordyce and Christine Fordyce.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17 April were approved. Alasdair proposed, Andrew seconded. All in favour.

The minutes of the meeting of 25 March were approved. John proposed and Alasdair seconded. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Foveran Church

Alasdair advised that Jane, Christine and himself attended a site meeting with Council Planners to ascertain their views on a house being built on the car park land in addition to change of use for the church to a house, in order to establish what a developer may be allowed to do and to realise the potential full value. Alasdair highlighted that a developer may not consider Manse access, so this was also discussed with the planners. The planners will consider and liaise with the roads department and come back with their views in the next few weeks. Jane stated that these are informal discussions and no plans have been drawn up. Ricky stressed that the Session has agreed with the Trustees not to build anything. Ricky advised that the approval process is Session, Presbytery and Trustees. It was agreed that Alasdair would contact Scottish Redundant Churches Trust to ascertain their interest. Alasdair advised that the Planners also stated that the church is not classed as a place of worship, therefore, nothing can be taken out without planning permission. Ricky confirmed that Church of Scotland lawyers advised that the Church should not be sold with artefacts in it.

Fundraising Ideas

Big Band - Alasdair suggested a Big Band event featuring the Big Band; Jadz, a jazz band from Aberdeen City Music School which Samuel Sloan plays in; and other individuals/groups. The event could be held in the church hall with voluntary donations. It was suggested that Autumn would be the most appropriate time. Andrew advised that it is a lot of work pulling it together. Andrew to consider. Mary and Christine said the Social Committee could help to organise it.

Classic Car show/treasure hunt – Alasdair suggested a classic car show followed by a family car treasure hunt. Jane suggested that the Newburgh Inn front car park or the golf club car park could be used to show the cars, with refreshments served in the sports centre. Christine volunteered to speak to Trevor Jones who is an enthusiast. Timing possibly May 2019. Alasdair to research, consider and revert.

Correspondence

Letter from the General Trustees advising that they propose to increase the rent of the Glebe in Foveran to £350 per annum. Pamela advised that this is currently £320. Alasdair confirmed that the Church receives £500 from George Moir of Pitgersie Farm. It was agreed not to increase the price to George Moir. John advised that if George Moir feels it is appropriate to pay more, he will. All agreed to the increase from the General Trustees. Pamela to complete and return the acceptance form.

Property Report

Andrew advised that M N Hamilton has found the details behind the invoice for £4,354 including VAT. The property committee to review against work completed. In addition, Pamela to search past minutes to find if Board approval for the work/cost was granted. The Property Committee also to check through a recent invoice received from M N Hamilton. Christine reported that Ian Simpson thanked the Board for his cheque.

Christine advised that there may be a cost for work required on the organ. Ricky distributed a copy of the surveyor's report of the buildings. The Property Committee to review and bring forward at the next meeting.

Financial Report

Alasdair distributed accounts for the first five months of the year. Currently there is a deficit of £9,763. Last year £1,800 had been received from baptisms, weddings, funerals and a legacy and £2,000 had been donated from Corner Café (£1,500 for noticeboards and £500 in rent). Travel catch up equates to £4,800 and heat and light has increased by £1,500. Alasdair stated that a deficit at this stage is concerning although we had been in a similar position in 2016.

Alasdair advised that he attended a conference in Dundee on Church of Scotland's 'Go For It' Grants and advised that grants are available for research, training, pilot grants and unforeseen expenditure. Main grants are available up to £45,000. An example being that a grant for Soul Food Sunday could be applied for.

Social Report

Mary updated Ricky as to the Social Committee's decision not to hold a Roup this year. Mary advised that she would welcome event suggestions, however, the Social Committee have no immediate plan for further events this year. Jane advised that she will put Mary's article into the next quarterly newsletter.

Newsletter

Pamela advised that she felt the newsletter was full of content and impactful. Mary advised that she did not quite share the same enthusiasm for the current newsletter and suggested that the content could be slightly broadened so that it also reflects other activities linked to the church. Jane advised that everyone is welcome to contribute/send articles. Andrew complimented the newsletter and advised that he is happy to be distributing it around the parish. The cost of colour printing vs black and white and the cost of the quality of the paper was discussed. The editorial team to discuss.

Any Other Business

Communion Silver – The bank has advised that they are no longer prepared to keep the church silver and the Church will be given 4-6 weeks notice. Ricky read out the list of items the bank holds. Ricky to contact Architectural and Artistic Affairs regarding possibly selling some silver. It was agreed that it would be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Should the notice from the bank come in before the date of the next Board meeting, an extraordinary meeting will be held.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 9 October at 7.30pm.

Chairman:

Clerk: