

**The Black Isle Charge
Joint Vestry**

**Minute of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Joint Vestry
Wednesday 25th April 2018**

Members Present: Rev Canon Mel Langille, Alan Danson, Gill Pimm, Margaret Pern, Linda Couper, and Ramsay McGhee.

Lay Reps. Present: Julie Gamble, Ann Danson,

Alt Lay Reps: Mairi MacLean

In attendance: Peter Furniss

Apologies: Apologies were received from Bill Fraser, Susanna Leslie, Janet Spence, Louise Jeffery and Dr Helen Robinson

Opening: The Rector opened the meeting with prayer after which he handed over to Alan Danson who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minute of the Forty Ninth Meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2018**

The Minute of the Forty Ninth meeting of the Joint Vestry held on Wednesday 24th January 2018, was unanimously adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

2. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Title Deeds** – No further action.
- b) **Historic Scotland** – No further action.
- c) **St Andrew’s Hall Refurbishment** – No further action
- d) **Arpafeelie Road** – The secretary read a letter which had been previously circulated confirming that the Building Grants Group had awarded the Charge £8,000 toward the repair of the Arpafeelie Road. It was agreed that the Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman would meet and progress applications for additional funding in order that the best possible solution could be achieved.

3. **Correspondence:**

- a) The Secretary alluded to correspondence received from Churches Together in which they were promoting preferential group prices for utilities. It was agreed that the Treasurer would make suitable enquiry regarding the scheme before any further action be mooted.

- b) The Secretary read correspondence from Edinburgh regarding Canon 35 - that a new form of property inventory had been produced and which churches should now use to record the inventories. It was agreed that we would implement the new form at the five-year period when we next require to carry out an inventory.

4. **Finance Report:** The Treasurer, Peter Furniss presented the following report.

1. Statements of Account for the six-month period ended 31 March 2018

Two Schedules in the internal format of the accounts are attached for consideration. Overall, we have a deficit of £6,082. Our income was £29,501 but our expenditure was £35,583.

The main feature is of course the cost of replacing the boiler at St Andrews which totalled £3,287. There is more expenditure still to come on replacing the cage at the top of the steps to the boiler house which will bring the overall total to nearer to £4,000.

The Bank Balance at 31 March 2018 was £11,234 which given the circumstances is satisfactory.

January to March is invariably the highest spending quarter as we have higher fuel bills and we have the insurance renewals etc. We can expect the situation to reverse in the second half of the year to end of September 2018 with additional gift aid claims for small donations to come through, fund raising events. and higher income from the Charity Shop. I expect the year-end financial position to end much closer to a breakeven.

2. Refund of National Insurance / Change to Bank Accounts

Louise Monaghan has now refunded £1,788.00 being the first tranche of a total of around £7,500 that we can expect later in the year. Unfortunately, she transferred it into what I thought was a closed bank account, but which is in fact still live. The Account name is St Andrews Restoration Fund. I intend to change the name of this account so that we can use it for Restricted Funds and I have forms with me to enable myself, Alan and Ramsay to be added as authorised signatories.

When the balance of the National Insurance refund is received (about £5,700) I will need to receive instructions from Vestry on how we should use this money which, if possible, I feel should be used to benefit all three churches in equal manner.

3. Annual Accounts to 30 September 2017

These have now been lodged with OSCR and it is duly indicated that we have done so on their website. We have again been requested to include a copy of the report and accounts on our website as soon as the new website becomes available.

5 Church Committees:

- a) **St John's** – Minutes circulated.
- b) **St Andrew's** – No meetings had taken place.
- c) **St Regulus** – Minutes circulated.
- d) **The Fabric Committee** – In the absence of the Convenor, the Treasurer updated Vestry on the situation regarding the new boiler in St Andrew's
- e) **The Stewardship and Mission Committee** – The Committee met on 7th March and the Minute is reproduced hereunder for ease of reference –

Present: Mel Langille, Alison Garraway, Ann Danson

This is the first meeting since 8.11.17

- 1. There was a discussion about the desirability of a member from St Regulus now that Eunice has left the group. Mel will see if he can get someone to join*
- 2. At our joint service on the 5th Sunday in April Martha Spence will speak about the Diocesan Youth Camp at Glen Almond. The rest of the group will support her.*
- 3. Some up and coming events: towards the end of June Konevets, the Russian Quartet will be performing in St Andrews. The Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo will also be visiting in the summer. Also, towards the end of June Mel will need to visit Canada to join the family as they receive his mother's ashes.*
- 4. The breakfast club will meet next on Sat 24th March. This is still a small but useful group.*
- 5. The Sunday Club in Cromarty is going from strength to strength. There was a discussion about inviting the whole of Cromarty Primary to St Regulus to celebrate Easter and Christmas. Mel informed us that this happened last Easter and the school held their assemblies in the church while their hall was being refurbished. Mel also enjoys assemblies at Avoch, although that school is much bigger.*
- 6. Alison reported that the youth group seemed very engaged with the observation of the Stations of the Cross. Mel was pleased that so many of them had turned up and said that two of the youngsters had spoken very positively of the experience afterwards.*
- 7. There had been a proposal from St Johns to change the date of the North Kessock Carol Service from 14th Dec to 21st Dec. Mel was amenable to this although there has not yet been a reply from Susan Cord or Owen Smith.*
- 8. The quiet day is still set to go ahead on Saturday May 8th. It will be facilitated and led by the staff at the Coach House. There have been 12 expressions of interest. The cost of the day is £120. This has been paid in advance by Peter*

Furniss. Donations will be invited from the participants. The Coach House will provide tea/coffee and biscuits and are offering a lunch for £5 which must be ordered in advance, otherwise participants can bring their own packed lunch.

9. *The Catholic Church in Fortrose are planning a Lent lunch and St Andrews are providing the puddings. This is to support Water Aid. Mel had just conducted a funeral there and said it was very warm. He may well ask them if he can conduct Sunday morning services there until the boiler is fixed*
10. *St Andrews are planning to open the church on the weekend after Easter 7th and 8th April for visitors to admire the Easter flowers and enjoy tea and cake.*

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday April 4th at 2pm in the Rectory. All are welcome.

- f) **Fund Raising Committee** – No meeting has taken place, but this will be rectified soon. The next event will be the Car Boot Sale in June.
- g) **PVG Safeguarding** – The Secretary reported that a 64-question audit report had been completed on behalf of the Vestry and that it had been checked by the Rector and the PVG co-ordinator both of whom were happy with it. It was agreed after some discussion that the report be submitted.
- h) **Health & Safety** – No issues raised.

6. **AOCB:**

- The secretary intimated that he had prepared a Data Protection Notice and a Data Protection Consent Declaration Form which would be required to be completed by all members of the three congregations. He sought the permission of Vestry to circulate them with the Newsletter and suggested that he may be allowed to speak to the forms at the Joint Service on Sunday 29th April. Vestry so agreed.
- Julie Gamble intimated that the subject – “How green are our churches” would be discussed at the Alt Reps meeting on 12th May and that she would appreciate any points that the Vestry members may care to make that would assist her in the debate. Various issues were suggested such as all churches in the Charge being actively involved in recycling, energy conservation, adopting a replacement policy of using the most efficient systems available at the time and ensuring that low energy bulbs were being used.
- The Chairman, Alan Danson raised the issue of having all our properties assessed in respect of the state of the electrics. It was agreed that this should be done on a ten-year cycle and that economies of scale could possibly be achieved if we negotiated a contract to have all our buildings tested at the same time. It was agreed that the Property Convenor make necessary arrangements.

Close: The meeting was closed with the Grace at 20.35 hours. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Chairman.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 20th June in Fortrose.