

**The Black Isle Charge
Joint Vestry**

**Minute of the Fifty First Meeting of the Joint Vestry
Wednesday 20th June 2018**

Members Present: Rev Canon Mel Langille, Alan Danson, Gill Pimm, Janet Spence, Bill Fraser and Ramsay McGhee.

Lay Reps. Present: Ann Danson,

Alt Lay Reps:

In attendance:

Apologies: Apologies were received from Peter Furniss, Margaret Pern, Linda Couper, Susanna Leslie, Julie Gamble, 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 Fiftieth Meeting held on Wednesday 25th April 2018**

The Minute of the Fiftieth meeting of the Joint Vestry held on Wednesday 25th April 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 gave an update on progress as follows. An application for a £12k grant had been submitted to the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Awards for All had informed the Secretary that they would not consider an application for road surfacing especially when ownership of the road could not be proved.

One estimate from Highland Surfacing and Contracting for £36k had been received.

Pat Munro, Alness will carry out a survey on 21st June and submit a quote. Breedon of Inverness will meet with the Secretary on-site on 26th June and thereafter submit a quote.

At the present time the financial situation is as follows:

Ring fenced monies from the Black Isle Charge	£7250.00
Provincial Building Grants Fund	£8000.00
Diocese	£5000.00
G K D Galbraith	£2000.00
Resident	£500.00
Total	£22,750.00
Shortfall (approx. based on one quote)	£13,250.00

3. **Correspondence:**

- a) All relevant correspondence had been circulated to the Vestry. All other correspondence of a routine nature had been dealt with by the Secretary.

4. **Finance Report:** The Treasurer, Peter Furniss, unable to be present, submitted the following report.

1. *Cash position as at 31 May 2018:*

Our Cash balance at the end of May 2018 is £10,807.88.

I am pleased to report that during the last two months we received our first payments under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) totalling £2,567.06. I have recently made a further claim for £1,355.70 for the last financial year ended 5 April 2018. This should be transferred into our account very shortly making a total of £3,922.76 from GASDs. These monies together congregational donations of £400 will more than cover the £3,751 cost of replacing the boiler at St Andrews. We will be able to claim GASDs once a year from now on and this should increase our revenue by about £1,250 per annum.

Our other recent income since the last meeting has been in line with expectations with the Charity Shop income levels showing gradual improvements. Our gross income from the Charity Shop for the eight months to 31 May 2018 is £4,913.64 – a little below the same period last year.

Recent expenditure has also, generally, been in line with expectations. Extra costs have been incurred on electricity – particularly at St John’s which is partly due to the wrong VAT rate being applied by SSE. We are in the process of getting a refund from SSE. Oil price increases have recently affected the charges incurred at St Andrews where the unit price of gas oil has increased by 26.5% compared to this time last year. I am hoping the increased efficiency of the new boiler will help to soften the impact of this increase.

2. *Refund of National Insurance*

Following further discussions with Louise Monaghan, the Diocese Treasurer, the second tranche of the National Insurance refund of £5,313 should have been made on 15 June. As previously reported this is a totally unexpected windfall and

it is my recommendation that we should use the money to help fund the St Johns Church Road Project.

Peter Furniss - Honorary Treasurer - 14 June 2018

The report was accepted on the proposal of Bill Fraser, seconded by Ann Danson. In accepting the report, the Vestry recorded their thanks to the Treasurer for his sterling work and for appraising the Vestry so meticulously whether present or not.

With regard to the high electric charges at St John's, it was noted that there is a problem with the existing meter and that SSE had been asked to notify Alan Danson when they next intended to be on site in order that a true reading could be recorded. It was also mooted that the Fabric Committee explore the possibility of having a modern smart meter installed which would be acceptable by all suppliers should we decide to change suppliers in future.

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** – The Convenor, William Fraser, reported that he has secured the services of an electrician to check out the electrical installation in all three churches, the Rectory and the Hall.
A new double socket has been installed in the Charity Shop.
A Fabric Committee visit is due in respect of the Rectory.
- e) **The Mission and Ministry Committee** – The Committee met on 19th June and the Minute is reproduced hereunder for ease of reference –

Present: Mel Langille, Alison Garraway, Ann Danson

It was felt that our committee lacks representation from St Regulus. We agreed to mention this at the vestry meeting. Perhaps a plea for a new volunteer could go out in Ramsay's newsletter both now and again closer to the date of our next meeting.

Lunch at Christine Mylne's on Sunday 17th June was very enjoyable but sadly not properly advertised so only 5 people attended. Nevertheless, she raised £110. There is another planned for Sunday Sept 2nd at Diana MacDonnell's house in Conon Bridge. Christine will cook the main course and Vee will provide puddings and we will ask Ramsay to promote it properly through the newssheet so members of all three congregations can be informed. We can cater for up to 25 people. This would be an enjoyable fundraiser and social get together.

The Thursday morning Eucharist group raised £120 for Grandmothers to Grandmothers. There was a discussion about whether this could become a regular project to support. In addition, Peter Furniss is asking if we could commit to more regular fundraising for Christian Aid. Perhaps these are issues which could be discussed by the fundraising committee

The Youth Group is still enthusiastic about meeting and some interesting conversations ensue.

Speakers for 5th Sunday services were discussed. It was agreed that we would like to know more about Janet Spence's training and how we could support her. To this end Mel will approach Ann Tomlinson, Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute to speak at St Andrew's on 29th July. Street Pastors have been looking to increase their outreach and he suggested that we ask Robyn Teago if someone could come and speak at St Regulus on 30th Sept. There was also a discussion about how we could increase the attendance at the 5th Sunday services, perhaps by varying the format and asking more people to participate.

The episcopalblackisle.scot website is now up and running although it is still a work in progress. Ann suggested designing some sort of small ad that can go up on local noticeboards so that more people are aware of it. She will see if she can come up with any ideas.

Several fundraisers have been organized including a car boot sale on 7th July and Kiev on 2nd August. Apparently, a pets' parade had been mooted. Would this work best as a stand-alone event or combined with our pets' blessing at Munloch animal aid? We had previously discussed buying an advertising banner for the pets' blessing and Ann will organize this

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday August 29th at 2pm in the Rectory. All are welcome.

- f) Fund Raising Committee** – The next event will be the Car Boot Sale in July. Posters and advanced publicity are now in hand.

It was agreed that a letter received from Peter Furniss regarding Christian Aid be forwarded to the Fund-Raising Committee for their consideration.

It was likewise agreed that the Committee be asked to consider giving assistance to the Cathedral with meals / clothing for children, especially during the school holiday period.

- g) PVG Safeguarding** – An item on PVG will be prepared for the Charge website giving details of the co-ordinator.
- h) Health & Safety** – No issues raised.

6. **AOCB:**

- The Secretary submitted a report on the current state of the Consent Forms. As of this date 27 people who receive the newsletter had not completed a form; regarding the Charge Roll, 31 members from St Andrew's, 9 from St John's and 7 from St Regulus had not responded to the request to complete a Consent Form. The Secretary will put another article into the newsletter indicating that if completed forms are not received, he will require to stop sending the newsletter to those who have failed to respond and that a similar action will be required in respect of all other church activities where those on the Roll have not responded.
- Arpafeelie Signage – the Chairman, Alan Danson explained the current situation with signage at the junction of the A9 and the Arpafeelie Road. While the local authority has good signage pointing to the Church, the Scottish Episcopal Church signage has fallen into disrepair and the Diocesan Centre signage does not exist. It was agreed to put this matter on hold until the road re-surfacing is complete. At that stage, any surplus funding that can be generated will be used to install high quality, durable signage that will withstand the weather and vandalism.
- The Secretary reported that the Fund-raising committee had enquired about the purchase of a good quality marquee for use at various functions in order that they would not need to constantly ask the Danson family to oblige with one of their gazebo's. While the Vestry were sympathetic to the purchase, the Danson's made it abundantly clear that they were only too willing to assist and at a time when money was tight it may be prudent to put the purchase on hold.

Close: The meeting was closed with the Grace at 20.45 hours. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Chairman.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 5th September in Fortrose.