

AYR: ST QUIVOX PARISH CHURCH: CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

KIRK SESSION MEETING

DALMILLING CHURCH

TUESDAY 24TH AUGUST 2021 18:30 HRS

St Quivox Parish Church Ayr (Church of Scotland) Known name Ayr:St Quivox Parish Church
is a Scottish Charity, SC004906, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

MINUTES

THE MODERATOR CONSTITUTED THE SESSION IN WORSHIP

1. WELCOME

2. SEDERUNT

The Moderator, David McMahon (Session Clerk), Colin Mutch, Vickie Mutch, John Black, Katharine Black, Gwyn Pierce-Williams, Ian Fulton, Margaret McConnell, Elizabeth Brechany, Rosemary Alexander, Jennifer McCutcheon, Allan Leydon, Eileen Williams

Apologies: Pat Smith, Pat Johnston, Liz Fulton

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last Kirk Session were adopted as correct.

Proposed CM Seconded KB

M/A: EW has sent in the online form to Stewardship online giving. They will contact CM and / or the Moderator in due course, hopefully with instructions on setting it up on the webpage.

4. ANY OTHER URGENT COMPETENT BUSINESS

Moderator: Two dates to clarify

5. PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN DOCUMENT

The Moderator introduced the Ayr Presbytery Mission Plan. The plan is to get everything in place before the Ayr Presbytery is subsumed into the new South-West Scotland Presbytery, to implement the plan by Summer / Autumn 2022. The Central Mission Committee meets for the first time tomorrow. (Ayr:St Quivox is in the Central area.) The Moderator drew attention to the Plans A and B for the Central area, which now includes Lochside. The plans have been put forward to be a starter for discussions but are also there as a fall-back position if the groups fail to reach agreement. Other options can be put forward if the number of ministers remains the same. There are other potential options available for example a multi-union, or a union with Newton Wallacetown.

Our reps need to know now how our Kirk Session's view to know what to say at the meetings.

(VM) How would the Sundays work? Mod: Too early to know the details.

(CM) What will happen to the ministers? What buildings would remain open, or must close? Difficult to decide until we know that. Mod: If the Church is not being used for Mission, it is unlikely to be used. We've been asked to take place in a pilot scheme / toolkit to assess the use of buildings and their suitability for Mission. Once a fortnight use is not going to be a good thing. A lot of information will have to be gathered for this.

(KB) Is our problem having two churches? Mod: The bigger problem is that there are too many church buildings in Scotland. It is unlikely that both our buildings will close as Dalmilling is a Priority Area.

(CM) There is a problem here in the cost of how much work is needing done here in Dalmilling. Mod: This may give an idea of how many churches need to unite.

(EW) Is the plan to have bigger congregations to share the workload? (CM) It is not a certainty that all the church members will go to the 'new' church. Many of our congregation come from outside the area. (VM) Would it not be better to unite as one single church? Under Plan B, would Newton Wallacetown have to accept our or St James's Moderator as the Minister? Mod: I would be happy to move on if it facilitated the process. Once a union is in place, financially things improve.

In relation to a question regarding the allocation of ministers the Moderator said that if a situation directly affected us then we would be part of a Vacancy Committee. (CM) We are likely to have to close anyway by two years' time because we don't have enough people to support the church in St Quivox.

(CM) Do we have to come to a decision on an option tonight? Mod: it would be useful. If no-one can agree, the Presbytery Mission committee will implement Plan A. (Or perhaps, if two out of the three churches go for B, it may choose that.)

(EW) What are the other options? Mod: Other preferred options are a multi-union with all three churches or with Newton Wallacetown. (VM) (CM) Plan B is preferable, as why go to Plan A when in ten years' time we'll probably have to go to Plan B anyway? (DMcM) How many will go to where they are supposed to go? (GPW) You can only count on a proportion going to where they are supposed to. Mod: But since the church would be shutting, they will have to go elsewhere anyway.

GPW: The feeling in the room seems to be that Plan B is more futureproof.

Mod: While we are asking for our Reps to back Plan B, if Plan B is voted down then what do we argue? Kirk Session members agreed they were against the implementation of Plan A. However, if the committee appears to be backing Plan A (union of St Quivox with St James') the committee members should come back to Kirk Session for further discussion / instruction.

6. PROPOSED MEETING OF CENTRAL AREA GROUPING

Unfortunately, GPW will be away a lot of the time, so will be unable to attend the meetings. JMcC has agreed to go but is unable to go tomorrow night. CM will go tomorrow and may be able to share the meetings with JMcC. (Tomorrow will be an

introductory meeting.) Mod: Important that the representatives know the views of the Kirk Session. There is flexibility within that, but the Kirk Session does not support Plan A.

7. REOPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

Mod: Enquiries are now coming in about using the Church Premises. In response to AL, the groups are responsible for their own risk assessments including the use of facemasks, social distancing, sanitising / and sanitation of the premises after use. There was discussion on the Wild Rhythm's use of the Hall Church or the Wilson Hall.

Mod: This should go to the Admin Committee, but they should sanitise the place after use as with all the other groups.

Thus, we are prepared to re-open the buildings for groups' use, but they must adhere to these conditions which will be in their let contract. **Agreed**

8. AOB AS AGREED ABOVE

Mod:

1. We need Kirk Session meetings diaried more often because a lot is happening in the area groups. Also, the Harvest Sunday in Auchincruive on the 10th October. Propose the next Kirk Sessions to be on Tuesday 21st September at 7pm and the 12th October at 7pm.
2. Andrew Templeton has sent through an email about the licenses. The website is John's name. The License for playing music and showing the words on screen is due about December. We do need some clarification on which licenses we do need and what we need to report.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 21st September at 7pm

THE SESSION CLOSED WITH THE BENEDICTION

Moderator

Minute Secretary