

**AYR: ST QUIVOX PARISH CHURCH: CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**KIRK SESSION MEETING**

**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 7PM IN DALMILLING CHURCH**

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***

**1) WELCOME**

The Moderator opened the Kirk Session in prayer and welcomed everyone.

**2) SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES**

The Moderator, David McMahon, Colin Mutch, Gwyn Pierce-Williams, Ian Fulton, Pat Smith, Margaret McKay, Elizabeth Brechany, Rosemary Alexander. Allan Leydon.

APOLOGIES John Black, Katharine Black, Jennifer McCutcheon  
[Observing: Eileen Williams (Minute Secretary), Vickie Mutch  
Apologies from Liz Fulton, Margaret McConnel]

**3) PAST MINUTES:**

**a) The Minutes of **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021****

i) CM raised the item of the Moderator speaking to the Elders, but this has not taken place yet.

**b) The minutes of **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022** were accepted as true record with the following matters arising Proposed AL, Seconded VM**

i) DMcM The organ at Auchincruive: Other organs are available which might suit the purpose. CM will discuss during his report

**4) ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED**

a) CM Green Token Scheme

**5) MINUTES OF ADMIN COMMITTEE**

The following were noted

a) CM: Scott Nichol only has one "L" in his name

b) CM: Increase of 15% should be 25%, and the £12020 should be £11620

c) CM: Summary under 20K should be 21K

d) CM: War Games have paid £43.75 – have they had a letter to that effect?  
The Hall Let fees were discussed

**6) STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT (Treasurer, Colin Mutch)**

## **REPORT:**

Receipts have increased (including two Legacies)

Payments were down.

Surplus is £3089.

**The 2021 Accounts were unanimously approved by the Kirk Session**

## **BOOKKEEPING**

The Treasurer thanked **Ms Andrea Brown** for her expert and helpful bookkeeping, and the hours that she has put in. The Treasurer also thanked Andrew Templeton for his expert help and support to Ms Brown during the transition period.

The Treasurer proposed a recommended simpler book-keeping system, (at £15pm) which also incorporated the Gift Aid system, and that Ms Brown continues as bookkeeper with read-only access to our bank account. The Moderator suggested the Kirk Session acknowledge her help with a gift.

**All agreed by the Kirk Session**

## **LEGACY**

The Treasurer suggested the £5k Legacy money should be used to buy a new organ with a memorial plaque attached for Auchincruive Church. PS: Should JMcC have a look at the proposed organ to make sure it is OK before we buy it? The Moderator felt that there were other ways that we could spend the money for the betterment of the church? CM asked what are the other priorities? The Moderator felt that there were bills which could be paid using this money, if Auchincruive may not be here. PS When is the building survey through? Can we wait to find out the situation. GPW: It is important that as the money is a bequest something physical should be bought. DMcM: cheaper organs are easily available.

**The Kirk Session agreed to leave the money sitting as it is in the accounts there at present until the organ is checked out to still be available and JMcC agrees with its purchase.**

## **BUDGET**

The Treasurer proposes an increase of 7.5% in offerings and an increase of 10% in hall rentals.

Ministries and Mission payments have increased by 13%, Council tax will return to normal, energy costs are currently on fixed rate deals, but the gas bill is likely to increase with increased Lets, as will Fabric and Repair costs.

We are currently budgeting for a **deficit of £11,620** which will reduce our bank balance to **just under £21k**.

GPW: Could we do a six-month review on the financial situation?

**Budget and interim review agreed by the Kirk Session**

**FLOWER FUND:** This is a restricted fund. There is plenty money to have flowers in the church every Sunday. PS: It's often difficult to find out who to give the flowers to afterwards.

**The Kirk Session agreed to look at restarting the flowers in church and take money from the Flower Fund to give flowers directly to bereaved individuals.**

**TEA MONEY:** There is £169 in the Tea Fund to be used.

**WAR GAMES:** We are carrying a month's credit from them. They have given us a donation towards heating costs and have refused to take a free month from us. We are very grateful to them.

**UNIQUE GROUP:** We are also carrying a credit from them which must be refunded if they are not coming back. AL feels they will be coming back. Why do we not charge the Wild Rhythm group? The Moderator felt that this was because Wild Rhythm are attached to the church via the youth worker.

**COUNT TEAMS:** Colin proposes that he and Vickie take the count.

**Agreed by the Kirk Session**

**ELDERS' DUTY LIST:** To be discussed when a greater degree of normality returns.

**The Kirk Session thanked the Treasurer and his team for the huge amount of work they have put into this. It is very much appreciated by everyone present.**

## 7) CHURCH MATTERS

- a. Church magazine, website, and fb page.
  - i. Both are attracting regular views
- b. Covid Regulations update, including reopening building for Family and Youth worker
  - i. Paul's office needs be made ready for his return when he wants to come back.
  - ii. Paul's role may change regarding the Presbytery Plan. PS has been in touch with 121. Pauls' remit is currently between St

Quivox and Newton Wallacetown. This is likely to change, and the Moderator and PS have met with Paul.

- iii. AL : Paul would like to move the projector from the Church to the Wilson Hall, plus speakers and a camera. **Agreed**

c. Holy Week and Easter Services

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at St James' Church. Other ministers will be involved in this week. A collection for the Food Bank will be taken up each evening.

The Easter Service will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 9am at Dalmilling Church, followed by breakfast and the 10:30 morning service.

d. Congregational Roll

VM:

At 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 98 members with a Supplementary Roll of 5.

Since December 2019 we have lost 25% of our members by death.

e. Claremont Care Home

Dalmilling Church is the designated escape venue for any major incident at the Claremont Care Home. They have the Moderator's and AL's phone number to enable them to have the church unlocked.

The Services have restarted at the Care Home.

8) REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY MEETING(S)

- a) Last meeting was in December. The first vote was the decision on whether to approve the solemnisation of same sex marriages within our buildings. Ministers would have to go for training. The vote went against it.
- b) Presbytery Mission Plan was approved.

9) NEW PRESBYTERY UPDATE

- a) The process is ongoing. The last meeting of all the Presbyteries is on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, with the new Presbytery starting thereafter.

10) PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN MEETINGS UPDATE

- a) No further meetings. The Moderator is meeting regularly with the Rev Barbara. The two Sessions will have to meet in the future to form a

combined Mission Plan, which should be ready by the beginning of April. There will need to be representation from St Quivox at these meetings.

11) PASTORAL CARE TEAM

We need to think about how we cover Pat Johnston's district. The Moderator will have a look at all the Elders' districts, to split the 8 or so from Pat's District geographically amongst the remaining Elders.

12) CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) For information: Elder's Conference in Glasgow on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March
- b) For information: Letter from Mary Ryan asking to be taken off the Roll
- c) Letter from Mr David McMahan to stand down as Session Clerk to St Quivox Parish Church. The Moderator read out the letter, as requested by Mr McMahan, which detailed his strong reasons against the future local plans and his thanks for the help he has received over the years. Although agreeing to the post of Session Clerk for one year, he had carried out the task for three years. Mr McMahan had also been Clerk to the Board for five years, prior to the adoption of the Unitary Constitution.

CM: Without a Session Clerk, does the job of the Session Clerk default to the Minister?

CM: How long will it take for the union with St James to take place?

GPW: is it up to the congregation on how to take things forward? The Moderator: If both congregations vote against the union, the status quo continues.

CM: but if we don't go into a union, we are likely to end anyway.

CM: we need to know about if a building is to close. Moderator: there is a five-year grace allowed to close a building. CM: Whatever way it goes, there will be a loss in congregation members.

Moderator: every area of Scotland has churches taking a hit through this. Not just us.

Moderator: How do we go into the future with the limited numbers we have? DMCM; We voted for a team ministry. We did not vote for a union. The Moderator said that he wanted it minuted that he only found out about the Presbytery Mission Plan, when he arrived here and has kept the Session informed throughout.

13) AOCB AGREED ABOVE

ASDA Green Token scheme. Karen from ASDA has approached Colin. He will give her our Mission Plan.

DMcM: When is the Annual Stated Meeting? The 2021 ASM had been held in May. CM: The ASM was held later than usual last year because of the complications in meeting due to Covid. Decision: to go back to having the ASM in March. **The Annual Stated Meeting will be held after the Sunday Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in Dalmilling Church.**

**The Moderator wanted to record his grateful thanks to Mr David McMahon for his service to the Church during the past three years and for carrying the job for longer that he had originally intended. The Session echoed his thanks.**

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

**The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7pm**

**Venue to be confirmed nearer the date.**

***The Moderator closed the Kirk Session with the Benediction***

**Moderator.....**

**Minute Secretary .....**

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