

St. Mary's Church, Dalmahoy

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

12th November 2018

1. Present

Rev. Christine Downey
Lord Morton
Alan Coupe
Caroline Gunn
Gavin Craig
Denis King
Rona Finlayson
Geoff Angell
Carole MacBride
Rosie Mann
Douglas Walker
Jane Russell

2. Apologies for Absence

Ted Tracey-Bower

3. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Christine said an opening prayer and welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

4. Minutes of October 1st Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on October 1st were approved. These will now be displayed in the hall and on the website.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

The issues with the Audio System in the church are still being progressed.

Ted and Ben have sorted out the loop system in the hall and the wireless microphones are working.
Thanks to both for doing this prior to the AGM.

The Peace Pole application is being worked on. Christine is communicating with Simon Filsell in the Diocesan Office to understand what is required. The location where the pole will be sited has still to be finalised.

6. Away Day Progress

The pamphlets for distributing to the new housing estates in St Mary's catchment area are now complete. The subject of Same Sex marriage will be made an agenda item at the AGM.

7. Other Matters from Christine

It is now a year since Christine and Ben arrived at Dalmahoy. Christine wished to express her thanks for all the support that they had received from all at St Mary's.

The headstone in the graveyard that had been laid flat previously due to its dangerous state had been stood up again by a workman trying to be helpful. John Helliwell has laid it flat again and will carry out the required work to get it standing safely again.

8. Treasurer's Report

Gavin distributed his report which showed the end of October balance in the General Account as £18,985 (£12,780 of this is in unrestricted funds). He pointed out that October had been a heavy month for outgoings which included a double stipend payment, payment for hall decoration, and also the transfer of £10,000 pounds into the SEC Unit Trust Pool as agreed at the October vestry meeting. The value of St Mary's investment in the SEC Unit Trust Pool on October 31st was approximately £63,772.

As forecast expenditure continues to outweigh income. Congregational Giving is around as high as can be expected. There is a requirement to look at new sources of income.

Jonathan Gibbs has agreed to be the Independent Examiner who will 'audit' the annual accounts. The required documentation is being passed on to Jonathan.

9. Fabric Report

Carole had circulated her report before the meeting which addressed a large number of items that had been completed or progressed in October. These were:

- The Douglas Hall decoration was completed by Brushstrokes on schedule. There are still a few snagging issues which will be addressed when exterior work is undertaken. It was agreed by Vestry that the work done had made a huge difference. Thanks were expressed to Ben for overseeing this project.
- A new carpet has been bought and fitted in the office. New blinds for the office have also been purchased.
- Curtains for the Douglas Hall are being organised by the Hall Committee and will be fitted in the New Year.
- The dehumidifier in the vestry has been checked by John Blaber. It still leaked after this and so it has been sited on the draining board in the sacristy so that any leaking water will run into the sink rather than onto the carpet.
- A new convector heater has been purchased for the sacristy.
- The Rectory chimney has been swept.
- There are some floorboards in the hall that have pieces splintered off of them. Wood filler has been purchased and repair work will be carried out.
- The septic tank at the Rectory needs a replacement cover. Carole will progress once required measurements are passed on to her.
- There was an issue with the church electrics causing the circuit breakers to trip frequently. This has now been fixed.
- New spotlights have been fitted by the Dalmahoy Hotel on the south side of the church.
- A ground clearance day was held in October. Thanks to all those who helped and to Lord Morton for arranging for the removal of a lot of the pruned branches.
- Some minor but important joinery jobs were carried by Robert from 2, Sawmill Cottages. We thank him for this.

Consideration is being given to putting up a form of rail in the hall on which artwork can be hung without leaving marks on the newly painted walls when removed.

The warning and fire exit signs will be reinstated.

Carole is going to contact the Diocesan Buildings Committee to discuss the possibility of and requirements for St Mary's to apply for a grant to assist with the costs of repointing the stonework on the Church and Rectory. Should this be thought to be feasible a grant application will be created early in the new year.

10. Hall Committee Report

- There will be a Faith Lunch for Val Lawrie on November 25th.
- The Choir Concert being arranged by Ella Henderson is on November 23rd.
- Clifton Hall Orchestra will be performing on December 6th.
- A Burns Ceilidh will be held on January 25th
- A Rich Man Poor Man lunch is being planned.

There have been two recent bookings for use of the hall for functions. It is intended that this will become a more regular occurrence and that the profile of St Mary's in the community will be raised through people attending functions.

The hoped for increase in use of the Douglas Hall means that there is a requirement to investigate increasing the car park capacity. An area by the trees has been identified as an area which could possibly be cleared to facilitate this (no removal of trees). Lord Morton will have a look at this to see if it is viable.

11. Vulnerable People Report

Donald Urquhart, who is the Provincial Officer on this subject, is to be invited to come and present to the February Vestry meeting.

Although Caroline's term as People's Warden will be complete at the AGM she is willing to remain as St Mary's PVG Co-ordinator. There is a requirement that this remains an agenda item at all future vestry meetings. Caroline will communicate any information to be brought to vestry to the new People's Warden.

12. Lay Rep Report

There was nothing to report.

Ted has indicated that he is willing to remain as Lay Representative for the coming year.

13. AGM

- The AGM will take place on Sunday November 18th.
- The reports will be mainly sent out by email on Wednesday 14th November. However a number of paper copies will be made available for those who do not use email.
- Carole volunteered to check the email distribution list for accuracy.

14. AOB

- Rona pointed out that the constitution required the Vestry to appoint a Property Convenor and two other people to address fabric issues. This will be actioned by the new Vestry after the AGM.
- Rosie will liaise with Claire to arrange Christmas Hampers for the cottages.
- Christine will be attending the Clergy Conference in Pitlochry from November 27th – 29th.
- Rona pointed out that there is a requirement to put a new fence around the perimeter of the Rectory grounds. This would require communication with the 3 neighbouring properties as to the type of fence and whether they were willing to pay a share of the installation. This will be discussed further at the December Vestry meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next vestry meeting will be held at 7.30pm on December 3rd in the Douglas Hall.