

Abridged minutes of the joint meeting of Church Council and Parish Trust of London Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God and the Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia
London, 12 October 2008.

Attended

Father Nikolay Savchenko, Father Peter Baulk, Subdeacon Alexander Shadrin, Trustee Sofia Goodman, Trustee Gregory Wolcough, Starosta Vera McClenaghan, Treasurer Andrei Rodzianko, Head Sister Tatiana Holodny, Secretary Oleksiy Danylenko, Mikhail Apukhtin, Vassiliy Starodubtsev

Absent

Churchwarden Pavel Lisitsin, Trustee Nicholas Yellachich, Choir Director Anna Kobrina, Alissa Turgeneva

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by prayer at 13:45.

Scheduled Maintenance

Georgiy Volosevich, who participated in the construction of the church and the church house, proposed passing on some of the related historic documents to the church. In addition, he will give an overview of the church and church house's heating and fire-alarm systems to Fr. Nikolay and Mikhail Apukhtin.

Church Choir

Choir Director Anna Kobrina had spoken to Fr Nicholas and Fr Peter and announced that she will be staying on in London. In light of this good news, the Council decided we needed to enter into a more formal contract of employment with her. Fr. Nikolay and Andrei Rodzianko were charged by the Council to prepare a draft contract to after talking to Anna, which would be discussed at the next meeting.

It was thought that there was a need to conduct rehearsals of the choir other than on Sunday and Alexander Shadrin suggested sending alterniks to sing in the choir, so that they become more experienced in the church service.

Church Council Membership

Given that Alissa Turgeneva cannot regularly take part in the Church Council, a substitute member of the Church Council Vassiliy Starodubtsev was suggested to become a full member of the Church Council and Alexey Samarenko was suggested to become a new Church Council member. Both these appointments would have to be voted on and approved at the next AGM. The Council has the power in the meantime to co-opt members onto the Council as and when required.

Interior design project for the Cathedral

Pavel Lisitsin might have drawing of the lower altar.

During the meeting Alexander Shadrin informed Church Council about his proposal to hire Nestertsevo church art workshop, headed by Yaroslav Ryllo, to design and implement interior design of our upper church. Nestertsevo is very experienced in the highest complexity and quality church design projects in Russia. www.nestertsevo.ru presents some samples of their recent work.

The initial suggestion is to invite Yaroslav Ryllo with his chief architect Boris Vinnikov to our church to 1) examine the cathedral, its style and air; 2) meet with volunteers willing to take part in the painting of the cathedral; 3) tell the parishioners during the Sunday Lunch about the plan to paint the cathedral and invite volunteers to take part in the job; 4) discuss the interior design concept with Vladika Mark, Fr Nikolay and Fr Peter. Mr Ryllo and Mr Vinnikov were both happy to stay in the church house, so there would be no hotel expenses incurred. GBP 750 was approved by the Council to cover their travel expenses. If this amount is exceeded, then the Shadrin family offered to cover any excess. Their visit is expected within the next 2 weeks and will last 3 or 4 days. The implementation of their design will likely cost EUR 75-100k. If it is selected, Shadrin's family is going to donate GBP 50k to cover the costs of the decoration. A further possible donation of GBP 40k by another donor is being discussed.

The walls will be painted one by one, so that there will be no interruption of the church services in the Upper Church. Specifically, the Easter celebrations will take place in the Upper Church. The altar decoration will be implemented during summer months, when can be services can be held in the Lower Church if necessary.

The detailed proposal of work will be discussed at later stages of the project. It was suggested that some of the fresco work could be undertaken by volunteers, this being the case, the Council will need to make sure that all people involved have the relevant experience and are properly insured and covered by the relevant HSE (Health and Safety Executive).

Before deciding on the Nestertsevo proposal other possible alternatives would also be considered. Gregory Wolcough mentioned a 10-year old decoration proposal by Andrei Tolstoy at approx. GBP 100k and Tatiana Holodny also mentioned the outstanding work of the Jordanville monastery

Churchwarden's Comments

Vera McClenaghan reminded that all recent christenings need to be recorded in the records book. Fr. Nikolay and Fr. Peter will make the relevant entries once the register can be located.

Treasurer's Report

Andrei Rodzianko informed the Council that guided by Vladyka Mark the Council had followed the usual practice of offering a small gift to the visiting clergy to subsidise their travelling expenses.

We have recently received a bill for EUR 4,419 to cover a year's supply of candles from Monastery of St. Job of Pochaev in Munich. It was the timing of the bill which had come as a surprise to the Treasurer but it was not unexpected. To prevent this happening again in the future, Andrei requested that anyone who makes or places any orders on behalf of the Church must discuss them beforehand with the Treasurer and / or the Council. The person placing any order should also ensure that the goods or services are provided and receipts or bills must be provided.

The London borough of Hounslow has sent a Council tax demand. This is because when we had a nursery, our premises were business rated. Andrei Rodzianko and Gregory Wolcough were asked to discuss this with the borough to inform them that we no longer rented out the Hall. It was hoped to agree that we had to pay nothing or, in the worst case, only 25% of the original bill.

Andrei Rodzianko is putting aside GBP 15k on a high yield account at HSBC.

Andrei will prepare Q3 2008 financials by the end of October 2008. After that we will start discussing the 2009 budget.

Sisterhood Report

Matushka Tatiana thanked Fr. Peter for today's sermon encouraging people to help the Sisterhood.

Accommodating Fr. Nikolay

Fr. Nikolay's IELTS exam results are expected on 23 October 2008. Soon after that, he will go back to Russia for 2-4 weeks to finalise his British visa.

Church Security

Mikhail Apukhtin reported that we can cancel ADT service for the church house any time without any cancellation fees. After the cancellation, ADT will decide whether to dismantle the equipment. If not, we will be able to use it with the new security provider. There will be a short period during which we will not have any operational security system in the church house. In order to keep our insurance valid, we will have to inform the insurance company about that in advance.

New Insurance

Alexander Shadrin emphasised necessity to have insurance against theft and fire. He is collecting requirements to be sent to possible insurers to get quotes. Andrei Rodzianko will try to arrange for valuation of the church and the church house (replacement cost, excluding valuables).

Miscellaneous

We will order 5 copies of the Jordanville calendar for the next year.

There will be wedding in the church and the church hall will be rented on the weekend of 25-26 October 2008. Future events like this will have to be coordinated by Fr. Nikolay.

During the Sunday liturgy on 12 October 2008, there were 14 child and 3 adult partakers.

Parish Web Site

Mikhail Apukhtin will make our web-site searchable in the Internet after English version is finished. It will take at least 3 month for search engines to make it visible. He has put English versions of some of the pages. Fr. Peter has requested regular updates of the site including publishing appeals, notes etc and will supply the updates on a weekly/or monthly basis. Mikhail Apukhtin's proposal to put abridged meetings of our meetings on the web-site was approved.

The next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 16 November, after the church service.

Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed by prayer at 15:30