

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, 16 November 2008.

Attended

Father Peter Baulk, Subdeacon Alexander Shadrin, Churchwarden Vera McClenaghan, Head Sister Tatiana Holodny, Secretary Oleksiy Danylenko, Mikhail Apukhtin, Vassiliy Starodubtsev

Absent

Father Nikolay Savchenko, Ktitor Pavel Lisitsin, Trustee Sofia Goodman, Trustee Gregory Wolcough, Trustee Nicholas Yellachich, Treasurer Andrei Rodzianko, Choir Director Anna Kobrina, Alissa Turgeneva

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by prayer at 13:30.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 12 October 2008 were unanimously accepted.

Church Choir

We will need to discuss the job description and contract of the Choir Director at the next meeting.

Church Council Membership

We will need to discuss poor attendance of Council meetings by some Church Council members and the necessary co-option of substitute Church Council members at the next meeting.

Interior design project for the Cathedral

The plan of the upper altar is under development, as we are still waiting to see the actual sizes of the zhertvennik.

Alexander Shadrin has ordered a new cupboard for vestments in the upper altar. We expect to get the zhertvennik, relics box and icon-cases soon. An order for the safe-room to be installed in the lower altar has been placed.

We need to buy a temporary coat rail for vestments in the upper altar. Vera will look into it.

Visas for architects Boris Vinnikov and Yaroslav Ryllo are ready. We will wait another 2 weeks for Fr. Nikolay to clarify his return to London before confirming the dates of their visit.

Council tax

Council tax demand has been sorted out: we will pay nothing. Andrei Rodzianko will clarify if we can apply it retroactively and return some of the past tax payments.

New Insurance

Andrei Rodzianko could not arrange for valuation of the church and the church house (replacement cost, excluding valuables). Fr. Peter will try to arrange for such estimation.

Vera will consult the last church architect about the insurance valuation.

Fr. Peter, Alexander Shadrin, Andrei Rodzianko will be clarifying necessary insurance requirements.

Churchwarden's Comments

Vera McClenaghan thanked the Sisterhood for keeping the church and the church yard very clean, tidy and beautifully decorated.

Russian-speaking Priest for Confessions

We need a Russian-speaking priest for confessions, especially at the beginning of the next fasting period. Fr. Peter will discuss this matter with HE Archbishop Mark.

Items over GBP 300

Alexander Shadrin has ordered a new Shroud for the church services at an estimated price of GBP 5,000 and is planning to order a new silver cover for the Gospel at an estimated cost of USD 10k. Although we discussed this request at the meeting on 21 September 2008, these purchases have yet to be formally approved by the Council.

A purchase of a new oven of up to GBP 900 from the unrestricted account has been approved.

The Sisterhood has purchased a 15 meter hand-made runner for the Cathedral. To support this, the Council has approved to participate in the installation of the carpet in the maximum amount of £400. A purchase and installation of runners to fix the new carpet in the church of GBP 300-400 from the unrestricted account has been approved. In addition, Fr. Peter will announce a plate collection to contribute to this.

Mikhail Apukhtin made several comment to the purchase of candles. These comments were discussed online and subsequently resolved. We thank Vera and Mikhail for their work and dedication.

Andrei Rodzianko suggested that any expenses brought forward should include a plan for their finding.

Sisterhood Report

Tatiana listed the Sisterhood's accomplishments for the past six months. She explained the Sisterhood's role and importance of remembering St. Xenia the Righteous of Rome who helped the sick and needy. The Sisterhood would like to have a Bishop serve on St. Xenia's Day on Friday, 24 January 2009 (6 February in the new calendar), or the closest Sunday. This will be a day our parishioners get recognised for their effort by award letters from the Bishop. We would also like to have a painting of St. Xenia on the wall of the upper church and an icon-case for her icon.

Parish Web Site

Mikhail Apukhtin is working on making our web-site searchable in the Internet. The English version is finished. Fr. Peter will provide regular updates of the English version. Mikhail has been thanked for his outstanding work on this.

Mikhail will try to collect emails of website visitors via our web site. He also suggested to make several announcements after the services asking people left their emails addresses in the book which should be available at our shop or even better at table with commemoration lists. He will bring the book next time and leave it at this table.

Domain names russianchurchlondon.org.uk and russianchurch.org.uk that were registered by Fr Vadim are now property of "London Russian Orthodox Church". The data in Nominet register should be updated soon.

School

Matushka Tatiana Holodny has described very difficult and poorly organised current operation of the church school. Fr. Peter has suggested waiting for Fr. Nikolay's return to change the situation.

Prior to that, Fr. Peter will write to the School and Ilya Muromets Club leaders to invite them to discuss the situation and the ways out. The joint meeting of the Church Council with the School and Ilya Muromets Club leaders is expected to take place on 30 November 2008 at 2 pm.

Tatiana has asked for the school to be separated from the Sisterhood and for it to be treated as a separate entity. Tatiana cannot continue to manage this.

An interim measure can be giving the School under management of the Club organisers.

One of the ideas it to foreclose both current School and Ilya Muromets Club and set up a new school.

The news school can be aimed at children of church-going families. It might take place on Sundays rather than Saturdays. It should focus on God's Law and Church Signing.

Accommodating Fr. Nikolay

Fr. Peter will speak to Fr. Nikolay to clarify timing to finalise his and his family's British visa and their relocation to London. Fr. Nikolay will be asked to come to London as soon as his visa is approved. His family will come later when their documents are approved.

Church Security

Thanks to Mikhail and Vera's efforts, the intruder alarm is working and has been tested.

Mikhail Apukhtin reported that we can cancel ADT service for the church house any time but we are still waiting for the alternative quotes from new providers.

Miscellaneous

We need to fix the collection-box to the wall. Nikolai will be asked to do this.

2009 budget will be discussed at the next meeting, when Andrei Rodzianko is present.

We need to arrange for a new church register of baptisms, deaths etc. Oleksiy Danylenko will clarify if we can purchase a ready-made register. In the meantime, a few baptism certificates have disappeared. In the future, all such forms will need to be given to a priest or Churchwarden.

Jordanville calendars were ordered 3 months ago and must arrive by the end of November 2008.

Andrei Rodzianko would like us to write up a Christmas appeal to help fund the Christmas bonuses, the purchases of the oven and runner installation and any other planned one-off expenses. Volunteers to draft the appeal are welcome.

The next meeting

The next joint meeting of the Church Council with the School and Ilya Muromets Club leaders is expected to take place on 30 November 2008 at 2 pm.

Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed by prayer at 16:09