

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, 4 January 2009

Attendees

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

Apologies for absence were received from: Ktitor Pavel Lisitsin, Choir Director Anna Kobrina

Absent: Trustee Nicholas Yellachich, Alissa Turgeneva, Vassiliy Starodubtsev, Alexey Samarenko

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened with a prayer at 13:30.

Due to the temporary absence of the Council Secretary, Oleksiy Danylenko and the Sacristan Subdeacon Alexander Shadrin who were preparing the Altar for Christmas, it was agreed to proceed with the meeting and to amend the running order of the Agenda.

The first item to be discussed was the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Church Council and the Trustees.

It was proposed that subject to the availability of Archbishop Mark, the Annual General Meeting of the Church Council Meeting and a separate Trustees Meeting would be held on either Sunday 22 March or Sunday 29 March 2009. Fr. Peter would ask Vladyka if either of these dates were convenient.

(Post Meeting Note, HE Vladyka Mark has suggested that the 5 April 2009 is a more suitable date)

Treasurer's Report

Andrei said the 2008 last month financial report would be available by the next meeting. He gave details of the most significant expenses in the last quarter which included the payment of the Candles, Fr. Nikolay's miscellaneous expenses and stipend, and the Knighthood payment for security.

Church and house security

It was pointed out that the refund from cancelling the ADT contract had not yet been received; Mikhail would undertake to contact the company to see why not.

We are expecting to receive a bequest of approx. GBP 80k from the estate of Mrs. Revel who was one of the original members of the Church. Fr. Nikolay served at her funeral. The residue from the bequest would be credited to the Trust.

Approval of purchases over GBP 300

There were no purchases, other than previously stated.

Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of previous meetings on 16, 30 November and 14 December 2008 were accepted with minor changes. Oleksiy Danylenko will send out the final versions to be published on our website and will bring some printed copies to put on the notice board and to distribute at the church.

Church Choir Director job description

Fr. Nikolay was delegated to draft a job description and contract by 11 January 2009 and distribute it to the Church Council members via email. This will be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.

Icon Cases

Pavel Lisitsin was requested in absentium to contact Dimitry Hartung to clarify the situation with regard to the overdue delivery of the Icon cases and table. Fr. Peter asked if the time had come to resort to litigation, but we would wait on Pavel's intervention.

Leakage in the church roof

Andrei Borisas has inspected the leakage, cleared the water channel and added silicon sealant. We need to wait for a rain to see if it has worked. If not, and there is a bigger problem, Andrei recommended that work needs to be carried

out on all four corners of the lower roof at a total estimated cost of GBP 2,800. Andrei will inspect it again around 18 January. Gregory Wolcough will check with Nicholas Yellachich to see if we can get any insurance/guarantee reimbursement, as it looks to be a design fault.

Church School and Club

Fr. Peter discussed Club prospects and reorganisation of the School with James Duncan. The GBP 5,000 lent to the Club by the Sisterhood cannot be spent at the moment, under the conditions of the loan. As soon as Fr. Peter receives his Criminal Records Bureau approval, which is due soon, the Club will be controlled by the Church Council and will be able to move the money. The GBP 5,000 is required for the Club to be officially registered and can be returned after the registration.

Fr. Nikolay agreed that the current operation of the School is not satisfactory and is costing us approx. GBP 50 per week, but he insisted that we continue supporting the School and not close it until we find a suitable solution. We discussed putting Fr. Nikolay, Fr. Peter, Olga or Club organisers in charge of the School operation, but no decision was made. Fr. Nikolay welcomed any further proposals.

Fr. Nikolay conducted one Law of God lesson on Sunday, 21 December 2008 and will continue to do so as long as he has no other urgent commitments on that day. This will be advertised on our website.

UK delegates to the Russian Orthodox Church Sobor to elect the new Patriarch

HE Vladyka Mark had agreed with the nomination of Vera McClenaghan as the representative of the UK & Ireland's laity. The Clergy's representative would be selected by HE Vladyka. Mark. The London parish agreed to reimburse travel expenses to the parish delegates attending to the meeting. The Council also agreed to pay for Vera's expenses in attending the Diocesan meeting in Frankfurt.

Updating registers

Oleksiy Danylenko reported about alternative paper registers. We decided that we will need an electronic register that will be set up on a new church computer.

Inventorying

In order to complete the inventorying, we need to arrange for a room in the church to keep icons and other valuables. As soon as such room is available, which Vera agreed to arrange, Alexander Shadrin, Vassiliy Starodubtsev and Oleksiy Danylenko will finish the inventorying (mostly icons and relics).

Miscellaneous

At Fr. Peter's suggestion, we start to serve Panikhidas and Molebens for the church's benefactors on the first Saturday of the month. This can be combined with the start of the Parish School classes. In this case, it may include Litya and prayers. Fr. Peter will mention it in his regular news bulletin, and requested Fr. Nikolay to produce a similar news letter in Russian.

Tatiana Holodny confirmed that we are going to celebrate St. Xenia's (Patron Saint of the Sisterhood) day around 6 February 2009, but the details are yet to be decided.

Alexander Shadrin will provide Fr. Nikolay and Andrei Rodzianko with copies of the two collection box keys.

Vera McClenaghan reported about her visit to the Diocese meeting in Germany in late December 2008. Alexander Shadrin suggested reimbursing Vera her travel expenses.

Fr. Peter is writing to a quantity Surveyor to discuss the fees for arranging a valuation (replacement cost) of the church and church building necessary for insurance.

Mikhail Apukhtin will look at the Church boiler again to make sure it is working properly.

We need to be using our website more extensively, for example, when appealing to parishioners to attend a subbotnik, etc. Fr. Peter and Fr. Nikolay will be doing this in the regular news bulletins.

Alexander Shadrin suggested awarding by gramotas those who contribute most to the operation of our church.

The Jordanville calendars will be available not earlier than in February 2009.

We need to keep communion statistics separately from the church council minutes.

Date of the next meeting

The next joint meeting of Church Council and Parish Trust will be on 1 February 2009.
(Post Meeting Note, this date has been moved to 22 February.)

Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed by prayer at 16:13