

ST. PETER'S PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10 JUNE 2019

Present

Father Kevin Douglas (President), Josephine Beech-Brandt (Chair), Liz Brown (Secretary), Ann Royan, Thérèse Stewart, Ian Stewart, Joyce Cullen, Anne Marie Douglas, John Wastle, Peter Nicholson, Salvatore Callea, Ros Macaskill, Mary Wastle, Patricia Cairns, Francis Katamba, Sophie Bennett.

Welcome

The Chair extended a warm welcome to all attending the Annual General Meeting, explaining that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council would follow.

Apologies

Andrew Thackrey, Agnes Martony, Grace Jeffrey, Jo Mulvagh, Aoife Palmer.

Opening prayer

Fr. Kevin led all present in an opening prayer.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 11 June 2018

The minutes were approved.

Chair's Report

St Peter's continued to be a vibrant spiritual community within the Archdiocese of Edinburgh & St Andrew's thanks to the commitment of our Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Douglas and the many, many volunteers and parishioners who contribute so much to the parish. I wish to thank the members of the PPC for their commitment and especially Liz Brown who takes on many tasks as Secretary. We have a few vacancies which we will look to fill during the year.

As the Parish Council year comes to a close, I reflect on a few new initiatives from the previous year as well as plans for the forthcoming year.

This year we have had to consider new legislature and ensure that we are following best practice and guidelines with respect to GDPR and maintaining a Risk Register. Thanks, must go to Liz Brown who did a lot of the initial research into our response to GDPR; to Trish Dolan for agreeing to take this forward as our Data Protection Representative; and to Joyce Cullen who as the Parish Safeguarding Officer is now also maintaining the Risk Register for the parish.

We thank Ann Royan and her Hospitality team for making St Peter's such a welcoming place following Mass and for celebration of special events. The now annual Parish Ceilidh took place to celebrate St Andrew's Day in St Columba's Hall. The Children's Liturgy team led by Aoife Palmer and Ana de Bonrosto continues to flourish; the annual Parish Picnic was once again a well-attended event.

Looking forward to next year, a new Finance Council will be formed, made up of new and existing volunteers, who will be able to support Fr. Kevin with control and planning of Parish finances

It was a busy year for the Property Committee with usual maintenance and upkeep but also planning for a much-needed new heating system for the church. An Open Meeting was held to allow parishioners to be kept informed of the plans and further details will follow when available. We thank them for their hard work. It will be a disruptive time for the parish but hopefully there will be many positives, not least the new heating system!

Recently members of PPC and many other parishioners attended a joint meeting with our neighbours at St Columba's and shared ideas to facilitate both parishes working together. Looking forward, these ideas will be developed and hopefully the two parishes will be able to share resources both practically and spiritually, coming together in celebration of our faith. As a first step, a Joint Social Committee will be formed.

Ian Stewart has served for many years and at various times over the years on the PPC and has decided that it is now time to retire. The Chair expressed her thanks to Ian for his many contributions over the years. He will continue to lead the Liturgy Links Group which brings together the liturgical ministries which make St Peter the wonderful place it is to worship.

We look forward to the next year and my thanks as Chair go to all PPC members and the volunteers throughout the many ministries at St. Peter's.

Annual Report on Parish Activities 2018-19

This document is almost complete. Peter Nicholson will once again act as Editor, and Jacqueline Heron-Douthart will arrange for a printed booklet. As soon as the editing process is complete, the Annual Report will be posted on the parish website. Now that we have a paper version of the Parish Directory available at the back of the church which contains contact numbers in it for interested parishioners, all telephone numbers and personal email addresses have been deleted from the Annual Report excepting those for Fr. Kevin, Mary Wastle (Parish Secretary) and Juliet Mackellaig (Website), which are in general circulation.

Council Membership

Ian Stewart will resign from the Council, and he was thanked for his support over many years. No parishioners had asked to join the Council, but the Chair reminded all present that there is an open invitation for parishioners to attend meetings. This is advertised in the newsletter.

Dates of meetings in session 2019-2020

Dates for the next session were provisionally agreed as:

2019 Mondays 9 September, 4 November, 2 December (if required)

2020 Mondays 3 February, 30 March, 8 June

The Annual General Meeting was convened. An Ordinary Meeting then followed and is recorded elsewhere.