

**Minutes of The Way Forward meeting
held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 in Creich Hall at 7pm**

Present – Linda Cameron (Chairperson), Eleanor Wagstaff (Clerk), John Cameron, Jenny Earl, Gill Morley, John Wagstaff

Apologies – John Noddings, Andrew Todd

Presbytery meeting – Jenny gave the following résumé of the Presbytery meeting held on Thursday 23rd January in Craignure.

The parishes of North Mull are to unite as a single parish. The proposal that Iona might unite with Kilfinichen, Kilvickeon and the Ross of Mull would not be workable, and the current linkage will therefore continue.

Parishes are encouraged to adopt a Unitary as opposed to a Model Constitution.

Throughout Scotland, there are issues relating to buildings. St Ernan's is to be given Category B status, which means that it is not expected to be retained beyond the ten years of the current Presbytery plan. The congregation may be given until 2022 or '23 to produce a plan for the future.

Two members of Presbytery intend to visit St Ernan's on 18th February at 2pm to look at the property. It was agreed that The Way Forward Group must have a plan ready for presentation by that date.

Relationship between the Congregational Board and The Way Forward Group

Concern was expressed that the Way Forward Group does not have the unanimous support of the Board. However, it was pointed out that the Board has given a commitment to work with the Group. It was agreed that the position of The Way Forward would be strengthened if it were recognised by the Board as a sub-committee. This is to be raised at the next Board meeting.

Plans for St Ernan's

The poor condition of the south-facing wall of St Ernan's was discussed. The Board are unlikely to approve a large expenditure on this if the building has no long-term future. On the other hand, if the building is to be developed, repairs to the south wall are essential. It was agreed that the 'big plan' proposed by Graeme Renton (i.e., the larger of the two extensions, costed at approx. £240,000) should be pursued, with the smaller plan as a second option.

Timescale

The following timescale was agreed:

- The Way Forward will present a clear, concise plan for developing St Ernan's at the Board meeting to be held on 4th February. This is to be based on the work done by Andrew Todd, setting out the group's aims and ideas.
- The Way Forward Group will compile a more detailed presentation of its plans for the meeting with Presbytery and the congregation on 18th February. Again, this is to be based on Andrew's document, expanded to include examples of the sort of groups which might use the building, and the activities which might take place. Linda and Eleanor will meet to discuss this beforehand, and will draw up the appropriate documents. Jenny offered to reproduce drawings at a larger scale. At the meeting itself, Presbytery is to be asked for help and advice. The meeting is to be advertised as widely as possible and members of the community urged to attend as a preliminary to the Stated Annual Meeting.

- There will be a further meeting between the Board and The Way Forward Group before the Stated Annual Meeting.
- In late March, there will be a public presentation of plans to the community, following the Stated Annual Meeting. Again, this is to be advertised as widely as possible.
- Assuming that positive progress has been made, a feasibility study will follow. How this is to be paid for is for future discussion.

Other matters

The Board is to be asked to provide a new notice-board as the existing one is not weather-proof. Eleanor will paint the black signboard, if possible before the Presbytery meeting on 18th February. It was agreed that an outside light for the car-park would be helpful – this need not be a permanent fixture, however, as the car-park is only rarely used in the dark. The importance of keeping the KKROM website up to date was also discussed.

Minutes

Jenny advised that the minutes of Way Forward meetings should to be sent to Alison MacKenzie, Clerk to the Board, for distribution to Board members.

Closing

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.