

**Perth North Church Kirk Session**  
**Approved Minute of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024**  
**at 1900 hrs in the New Hall**

**1. Opening Worship and Constitution**

In offering a welcome, the Moderator, the [REDACTED], sought forbearance as we continue to review which venue works best for our meetings particularly for those with hearing difficulties. In posing the question “ How does the Gospel speak to a particular culture?”, he read a passage from Philippians (which he had heard read during a televised programme on Christmas reflections) which likened our behaviour to that of Christ, our Saviour, and placed our focus on humility, being open to others and being servant minded. He then constituted the meeting in prayer.

**2. Attendance and Apologies (as per Attendance Register)**

Elders	24
Apologies	7
Visitors	4
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>28</b>

**3. Agree Agenda and Declarations of Interest**

The Moderator confirmed that the Agenda would be taken as presented except that Agenda Item 9.1 (Church Co-ordinator/Secretary) would be promoted to be dealt with under Agenda Item 4.2 (Matters Arising). This was agreed. There were no Declarations of Interest from elders present, but an acknowledgement that under Agenda Item 7.4, [REDACTED], who was present as a visitor, may be invited to leave.

**4. Minute of previous meeting – Tuesday 28 November 2023 – PO1**

**4.1 Accuracy**

[REDACTED] raised a concern that Item 4.2.3 (Parish Nursing) did not accurately reflect the significant questions posed/contributions made by both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] during the discussion. The Moderator confirmed that we would look again at the wording and bring a revised text forward to our next Kirk Session meeting for approval. Subject to that proviso, the draft Minute was duly approved.

## 4.2 Matters arising, not covered by Agenda Items:

### 4.2.1 InTogether

The Moderator reported that InTogether had been both delighted and encouraged to receive a cheque in the sum of £1,000 towards their project along with the promise of individual offers of financial support. ██████████ confirmed that the first meeting of the Core Support and Advisory Team had been scheduled for Friday, 26 January 2024.

### 4.2.2 Network

As yet, there has been no further feedback from ██████████ in relation to the proposed Covenant and nothing further to report on City Centre Mission.

### 4.2.3 Parish Nursing

The Moderator reported upon a meeting of relevant parties which had taken place on the evening of Thursday 18 January (which illness had prevented him from attending). It is understood that there were several matters arising and a further meeting will be arranged to review.

### 4.2.4 Pastoral Care

#### **(a) Review of Distribution of North News**

The discussion identified a number of minor glitches in the process and agreed how these might be resolved in future distributions. It was noted that the next edition would be due at Easter (Easter Sunday being 9 weeks away). Carol Kynaston seemed content that this time-line was workable.

#### **(b) Footwise – PO2**

The encouragement which the Moderator took from the Report, and the service being provided, was fully endorsed by the elders.

### 4.2.5 Stewardship Campaign

In seeking the views of elders on what such a campaign would look like for Perth North in 2024, the Moderator suggested 3 possible options:

- (a) A “one-off” Sunday service.
- (b) A series of services.
- (c) A 6-week period either during Lent or after Easter.

The discussion favoured Option (c) with the preference being for after Easter. It was envisaged that the campaign would involve a series of preaching services

and a focus on time and talents as well as money leading to an active response from members. We will probably look to form a small group (say the Moderator, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) to meet with the Church's National Stewardship Convenor to move things forward.

#### **4.2.6 Aims and Objectives for 2024**

Our principal aim should remain "To know Christ and make Him known".

Under this banner, it was suggested that each elder might consider their own personal aims and objectives and might be tempted to enrol on a refresher course. Whilst in a practical sense, the Kirk Session had already identified the need for urgent property upgrades, other suggestions included a review of the culture of Leadership, a focus on Pastoral Care and Mission and Evangelism, and, with specific regard to Kirk Session meetings, finding the right balance between business and spiritual matters.

#### **(9.1) Church Co-ordinator/Secretary**

The Moderator confirmed that, following on from the Staff Panel report (Item 11.1) in the Minute of our last meeting, three candidates had been invited for interview for this post. One failed to turn up so two candidates were interviewed. Although the decision was a close one, the Interview Panel (made up of the Moderator and the two Session Clerks) chose to appoint [REDACTED], subject to (a) satisfactory references and (b) all necessary PVG checks. Satisfactory references were duly received and [REDACTED] was consulted as regards PVG. The post which was offered to [REDACTED] (and which she accepted) was for an initial three-month probationary period starting on Wednesday 10 January 2024. She will be employed three mornings per week 9am to 12 noon. Liz spoke to confirm that Basic Disclosure for [REDACTED] will be deferred until her position becomes a permanent one. [REDACTED], who is Sri Lankan and holds a Masters Degree in Business, is settling in and is slowly becoming acquainted with our computer systems and processes. She is being well supported during the transition period.

As part of her welcome, [REDACTED] was able to join a meeting last Thursday of Reception Volunteers with whom she will be working. Whilst the Moderator was absent due to illness, both Session Clerks attended. Several matters which were raised by the volunteers (including a concern on lone working) will be reviewed. As the intention is now to close the office on a Monday, and there is to be a change in personnel, a revised Rota of volunteers is being prepared. A new message is to be placed on the office answer machine advising of the change in office opening hours. After 19 years [REDACTED] has decided to step back as a Reception Volunteer (principally due to her loss of hearing) and the Moderator thanked her most warmly for her dedicated years of service. [REDACTED] is also standing down (but will meantime be held on the reserve list) and she too

was thanked for her unstinting commitment. An opportunity arises for another new volunteer to come forward to share the Thursday morning slot. As [REDACTED] gradually beds in, it is hoped that she may be able to offer more office duties to the Reception Volunteers.

## **5. Property Related Matters:**

### **5.1 Fabric Report- PO3**

[REDACTED] spoke to his report. In relation to the outbreak of dry rot, he confirmed that a drainage issue had been found to be the main source of the dry rot and this had now been cleared. Supplement to his report, he referred to more recent discussions with the Presbytery Clerk [REDACTED], whereby, in view of the urgency, it may prove possible to “Fastrack” the Application for approval by the General Trustees. 121 appear generally supportive of early action. Kirk Session agreed to the submission of the application both for approval of works and for release of funds. If all goes according to plan, it may be possible to on go with the treatment towards the beginning of February. The Moderator confessed to having some reservations as to how Perth Presbytery might respond in the first instance.

### **5.2 Architect’s plans for re-development of church/halls – update**

[REDACTED] had nothing to add to his report. The Moderator thanked [REDACTED] who, in turn, thanked [REDACTED] for all his help. [REDACTED] echoed the feeling of the meeting in complimenting [REDACTED] on his diligence and expertise in dealing with these significant fabric issues in such a relatively short time-frame whilst family matters were more pressing.

## **6. Roll Keeper and Data Protection**

### **6.1 Report – P04**

For those not already aware, [REDACTED] has lifted his lines from Perth North. It seems he remains willing to continue to deal with roll-keeping issues, but this may not be considered appropriate if he is no longer a member. He has been encouraged to issue a letter resigning as an elder/trustee.

In the absence of a replacement Roll Keeper, the Moderator spoke to P04. In Part 2, it was noted that the names of [REDACTED] of Cluny Terrace, Perth should be taken out of the list as there has been recent contact with him. Furthermore, [REDACTED] of Hamilton Place, Perth is believed to have been unwell and so, whilst there is a possible query about the retention of his name too, steps may be taken to try and make contact with him.

The terms of the Data Protection Report were duly noted as was the Incident referred to.

A letter is to be sent to [REDACTED] thanking him for his faithful and diligent years of service.

## 6.2 Interim Roll Keeper

The Moderator confirmed that a replacement for [REDACTED] would be required. We may need to follow up on a tentative approach which had been made to a member of the congregation towards the end of last year. However, whilst [REDACTED] settles in during her probationary period, it would be inappropriate to call upon her to assume this role.

[REDACTED] took the opportunity to explain that whilst he had been acting as [REDACTED] Deputy, this was only by way of contingent appointment should anything have befallen [REDACTED] whilst in office. [REDACTED] had not been approached to take over as Roll Keeper although he did confirm that he was aware how to access/operate the system. [REDACTED] had also been assisting [REDACTED] in an “unofficial” information gathering capacity and, in the interim, it was agreed that [REDACTED] should pass any information directly to the Moderator.

## 6.3 Attestation of the Roll of Members as at 31 December 2023

Noting that this was available to sign off tonight.

## 7. Reports from Session Groups:

7.1 **Discipleship** – no report

7.2 **Fellowship** – no report

7.3 **City Centre** – P05

In the absence of [REDACTED] (Convenor), [REDACTED] spoke of the encouragement she has taken from the increased numbers attending Open Church, some of whom also come along to Sunday worship.

[REDACTED] took the opportunity to mention that the sum of £349 had been raised towards Christian Aid whilst carol singing at Dobbies at Christmas.

7.4 **Parish** – P06

[REDACTED], Convenor, spoke to his report. There had been a recognition that the current Hub in Tulloch has limited space especially in view of the extended initiatives which [REDACTED] has been operating and is planning. This is what has prompted the Parish Group to begin to look at alternative premises and what has led to initial discussions with representatives of Perth and Kinross Council concerning a possible Lease of Tulloch Community Hall. Whilst these premises already appear to have significant and fundamental issues (water, electricity etc) there may also be more far-reaching Repairing

and Insuring Obligations under the Lease which Perth North could simply not contemplate taking on.

In outlining the number of folk who had recently attended the funeral of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrated that past links to Tulloch Net are meaningful and stretched far and wide.

[REDACTED] himself then spoke to the following two events which are happening at the Hub in an attempt to reach out to, and meet a need in, the Tulloch Community:

- (1) A parents Coffee Group on a Wednesday morning
- (2) A young folk's Group between 3-4pm on a Wednesday afternoon.

At this point, [REDACTED] left the meeting together with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

This allowed [REDACTED] to bring [REDACTED] name forward for Kirk Session to agree to her joining the Parish Group. This was unanimously approved, a decision which was conveyed to [REDACTED] as she and the others returned to the meeting.

#### 7.5 Facilities – no report

### 8. Spiritual Matters

#### 8.1 Specific to Perth North:

##### 8.1.2 Christmas Appeal/Retiral offerings

Noting that (a) the Christmas Appeal on Sunday 17 December 2023 had raised the most generous sum of £1,200/£1,300 towards fuel vouchers and (b) the retiral offerings at both the Watchnight and Christmas Day services had collectively raised around £250 towards Renew Wellbeing.

##### 8.1.1 Feedback on Bereavement service/Festive services/Carol Crawl etc.

There is already mention of the Carol Crawl in P05 and the Christmas Light Switch-on in Tulloch in P06.

Prior to the Bereavement Service, the Moderator had issued personal invitations and he had also endeavoured to put into practice some lessons learned from the equivalent service in 2022. A new initiative this year offered those attending the opportunity to write down the name(s) of someone special to them who had passed away which were then read out and prayed for during the service. Numbers appeared to be smaller than in 2022 but the service was nonetheless greatly appreciated by those attending. It was also encouraging to note that the 2022 service is still being spoken of, and remembered, as giving comfort and solace. All very encouraging.

The fellowship enjoyed at the Christingle service on 24 December was tremendous and very much appreciated.

We have much to be thankful for in Perth North for so many willing and able volunteers and for all who serve in any way.

### **8.1.3 Approaches for church membership**

The Moderator continues to work with folks who are seeking to explore and may be considering a closer engagement.

### **8.1.4 Prospective Ordination of New Elders**

This is to be held over.

## **8.2 General**

There was no discussion under this head.

## **9. Staff Panel – no report.**

## **10. Health and Safety Panel**

### **10.1 Report – P07**

██████████ had nothing to add.

## **11. Safeguarding Panel – P08**

██████████ had nothing to add to her report which records the names of ██████████  
██████████ and ██████████ as cleared to work with Adults (Pastoral).

## **12. Hire of church premises - No report.**

## **13. Correspondence**

██████████ read out a letter of 21 January 2024, sent to ██████████ by ██████████ Treasurer of PACT, with which she enclosed a cheque for £200 as a thank you to Perth North for hosting the Christmas Carol Service. ██████████ will acknowledge.

**14. Insurance** - No report.

**15. AOCB**

15.1 **Date for Diary** – Communion Service on Sunday 17 March 2024.

This was noted and agreed.

**16. Date of next Kirk Session meeting**

The date of the next Kirk Session meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 1900 hrs in the New Hall (unless otherwise advised).

**Papers Apart:**

- |       |   |   |            |
|-------|---|---|------------|
| i.    | <b>Draft Minute of previous meeting</b> | - | <b>P01</b> |
| ii.   | <b>Footwise</b>                         | - | <b>P02</b> |
| iii.  | <b>Fabric Report</b>                    | - | <b>P03</b> |
| iv.   | <b>Roll Keeper Report</b>               | - | <b>P04</b> |
| v.    | <b>City Centre</b>                      | - | <b>P05</b> |
| vi.   | <b>Parish</b>                           | - | <b>P06</b> |
| vii.  | <b>Health and Safety Report</b>         | - | <b>P07</b> |
| viii. | <b>Safeguarding Report</b>              | - | <b>P08</b> |