

At Fort William, and within the hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, the thirty first day of October 2006, at 7.00 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met and was constituted with prayer.

1. **SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES, WELCOME, TRIBUTES & PRESENTATION.**
 - 1.1 Present were Mr John Fraser, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, 30 full members and 3 corresponding members of Presbytery. Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.
 - 1.2 Visitors were welcomed by the Moderator.
 - 1.3 Tributes were paid to the Rev Moses Donaldson, formerly Minister of Fort Augustus linked with Glengarry and Presbytery Moderator, by the Moderator and to Mr Nat Logue, former Session Clerk at Kinlochleven, by the Rev Alison Burnside.
 - 1.4 Bibles were presented to Mrs Morag Muirhead and Mrs Pat Walker.

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meetings of fifth September 2006, 8th September 2006 and eighth October 2006, being in the hands of members, were approved.

3. **INTIMATIONS**

Intimations were made including: -

 - 3.1 By the Clerk regarding the process for applying for grants from the Parish Development Fund.
 - 3.2 By the Rev Alan Lamb regarding Scotland's Churches Scheme of which he is now the Area Representative.
 - 3.3 By Mr John Maitland regarding the nomination of the Rev Sheilagh Kesting as Moderator Designate.
 - 3.4.1 By the Rev Dr Richard Corbett regarding the article in the November 2006 issue of "Which" Magazine regarding the Belford Hospital. As a result of this intimation Presbytery agreed to:
 - 3.4.2 Belatedly congratulate the Belford Hospital for, as reported in the November 2006 "Which", having received in July 2005 a report on catering which concluded "It's evident from the standards and records examined that the head cook and all food handlers work extremely hard to maintain such (high) standards";
 - 3.4.3 Instruct the Clerk to communicate Presbytery's congratulations to the Personnel Department at the Belford Hospital, with the request that they be passed on to the staff members concerned.

4. **SPEAKER**

Mr Peter Chirnside the National Manager of Tearfund Scotland addressed Presbytery. The Moderator thanked him.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Presbytery Clerk presented forty six items of correspondence.

 5. 1 Stewardship & Finance: Value of Investments. Forwarded to finance committee.
 - 5.2 Mission & Discipleship Council: Prayer Co-ordinators. Clerk noted.
 - 5.3 Church Solicitor: Guidance notes for Congregational Office Bearers. Sent by email to email recipients and placed into the updated Year Book.
 - 5.4 Rev Alan Lamb: Sederunt Sheet for 2005-06. Clerk replied.
 - 5.5 Rev Alan Lamb: Response to Clerk's reply regarding

- Sederunt sheet. Clerk noted.
- 5.6 Graham Duffin: Conference. Forwarded to ministers.
- 5.7 Scottish Rural Schools Network: Conference. Forwarded to ministers.
- 5.8 Church Solicitor: Updated Fire Safety Regulations. Sent by email to email recipients and placed into the updated Year Book.
- 5.9 General Trustees: Morvern. Forwarded to Property Committee.
- 5.10 Ministries Council: Hospital Chaplaincies. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 5.11 General Trustees: Morvern. Forwarded to Property Committee.
- 5.12 Special Commission on Structure & Change: Local meetings. Refereed to Business Committee.
- 5.13 Director of Stewardship: Area Meetings. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
- 5.14 General Trustees: Arisaig Manse. Clerk noted.
- 5.15 General Trustees: Mallaig Manse. Formal approval for upgrade.
- 5.16 General Trustees: Insurance Conference. Forwarded to Property and Finance Committees.
- 5.17 Ministries Council: Enhanced disclosure for Readers. Clerk replied.
- 5.18 Appraisal Committee: Concurrence of Presbytery Decision. Forwarded to the next Presbytery Meeting to be intimated in terms of Act IV, 1984 section 5. Congregations and Presbytery Appraisal Committee informed.
- 5.19 Mrs Mabel Wallace: Service of Covenant at Dunblane Cathedral. Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.
- 5.20 Depute Principal Clerk: Asylum & Immigration. Forwarded to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
- 5.21 Ministries Council: Prayer Diary. Clerk distributed by email to contacts.
- 5.22 Stewardship & Finance Committee: Attestation of Congregational Accounts. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
- 5.23 Depute Principal Clerk: Cold calling policies. Sent to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
- 5.24 Church Solicitor: Employment Law. Forwarded to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
- 5.25 Ministries Finance: VAP in 2007. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
- 5.26 Rev Alan Ramsay: Date of Retirement. Forwarded to Business & Ministry Committee.
- 5.27 Rev Alan Lamb: Correction to Presbytery News. Clerk noted.
- 5.28 Parish Appraisal Committee: Acharacle & Ardnamurchan. Forwarded to Appraisal Committee.
- 5.29 Parish Appraisal Committee: Presbytery Plan. Forwarded to Appraisal Committee.
- 5.30 Nomination Committee: Committee Nominations. Forwarded to Nomination Committee.
- 5.31 Mission & Discipleship Council: National Youth Assembly. Clerk noted.
- 5.32 General Trustees: Morvern Manse. Forwarded to

Property Committee and Morvern Session Clerk.
 5.33 Parish Appraisal: Presbytery Plan. Forwarded to Business Committee (copy already sent to Presbytery Appraisal).
 5.34 Ministries Council: Enquiry & Assessment Scheme. Forwarded to Ministry Committee.
 5.35 S & F Committee: Monitoring of Payments. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
 5.36 Mrs Pat Walker: Letter of Thanks. Forwarded to Business Committee.
 5.37 Law Department: Fire Safety. Forwarded to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
 5.38 Rev Dr Adrian Varwell: Parish Appraisal. Clerk Noted.
 5.39 General Trustees: Insurance Conference. Forwarded to Property and Finance Committees.
 5.40 Clerk, Presbytery of Lewis: Iain Maciver. Request for Graduate Candidate's Certificate. Clerk forwarded.
 5.41 Ministries Council: Mr Eric Walker. Final Preaching Assessment. Forwarded to Ministry Committee.
 5.42 Parish Development Fund: Grant Applications for 2007. Intimation
 5.43 Christian Education Association Scotland: News. Forwarded to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
 5.44 Law Department: Remuneration for Services. Forwarded to Parish Ministers & Interim Moderators.
 5.45 Mr Alex Sandilands, Scottish Bible Society Area Co-ordinator: Raising the profile of the Bible in Lochaber. Referred to Business Committee.
 5.46 Parish Development Fund: Two Lochs Youth and Community Project. Referred to Business Committee.

6. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Convener, the Rev Alan Ramsay, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

Business

- 6.1 Approve the Order of Business as circulated.
 6.2 Approve the arrangements for the Presbytery Christmas Dinner, Reception for Readers and Reader in training, other Preacher, Child Protection Coordinator and Presbyterial Council Representatives - Tuesday 5th December 2006 within the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church Caol at 5.30 pm.
 6.3 Affirms its support for the Two Lochs Youth and Community Project.

Nomination

- 6.4 Invite any member of Presbytery who is keen to attend the 2007 General Assembly to make this known to the Clerk.
 6.5 Appoint the Rev Donald MacQuarrie and Mrs Kate Cruikshank as an Examination Committee to inspect the Presbytery Minute Book (Act III 2000 – section 32) prior to the February 2007 ordinary meeting of Presbytery.

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

- 7.1 Approve the Presbytery Audited Accounts for session 2005/06, which have been properly prepared from the records of the Presbytery, and which are in agreement therewith, and

comply with the Regulations anent Presbytery Finance.

7.2 Forward to congregations, as an interim measure, assessments for session 2006/07 which are at the same level as the previous session with the proviso that a supplementary assessment will almost certainly require to be issued later in this session.

7.3 Note, with thanks, that Mr Alex Sandilands is willing to be appointed as Interim Convener of the Finance Committee.

8. REPORT OF THE MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Rev Alison Burnside, Convener of the Mission & Outreach Committee, reported on the recent visit to the Presbytery of Ms Noreen Shagufta : -

8.1 The visit was considered a success by those whom she had visited.

8.2 Due to lack of communication with the World Mission Council, it was felt that her visit was not as productive as it might have been as it overlapped with the two week schools' October holiday.

8.3 It was felt that her ten weeks housekeeping on Iona prior to her visit to Lochaber was improper use of her talents and status.

8.4 The Clerk was asked to write to the World Mission Council expressing our concerns regarding her visit.

8.5 Consideration is to be given for a Presbytery to Presbytery link between ourselves and Sialkot Diocese.

9. REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr George Haggart, Convener of the Property Committee, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

9.1 Approve the plans (Appendices 1, 2 & 3) for the provision of a Church Hall and ancillary facilities adjacent to Arisaig Church at a total estimated cost of £146,000.

9.2 Approve the submission of a Planning Application and preparation of tender documents and obtaining tenders.

9.3 Approve the application of the congregations to the General Trustees for a grant of £25,000 to assist in meeting the overall cost of building the Arisaig Church Hall and the upgrading of the Mallaig Manse.

9.4 Withhold acceptance of the preferred tender until evidence is shown to the Presbytery Property Convener that the overall cost of the building of the Arisaig Church Hall and the upgrading of the Mallaig Manse can be met in full by the congregations.

10. REPORT OF THE APPRAISAL & MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, Convener of the Appraisal & Ministry Committee, reported and presented an amended Presbytery Plan (Appendix 4). After discussion, the Convener proposed the Motion: "Presbytery postpone consideration of the Presbytery Plan, call congregational meetings in Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian, and report."

The Rev A. Ann Winning proposed as a counter motion: "The Presbytery approves the amended draft Presbytery Plan, and agrees to submit it to the Assembly Appraisal Committee for concurrence".

The voting was: for the motion by the Convener – sixteen; for

the counter motion – thirteen. The Convener’s motion was therefore carried.

11. VACANCIES

Arisaig I/w Mallaig

11.1 Presbytery agreed to the request from the congregations of the charge of Arisaig & the Small Isles linked with Mallaig St. Columba’s and Knoydart to extend the right to Call for three months.

Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan

11.2 The Clerk intimated concurrence by the Assembly Parish Appraisal Committee to the agreement by Presbytery to grant an unrestricted call to the charge of Acharacle linked with Ardnamurchan subject to the conditions minuted at item 13.3 of 6th June 2006.

11.3 The Clerk intimated the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee that the number of members forming the Nomination Committee for this charge should be nine, with five allocated to Acharacle and four to Ardnamurchan.

Ardgour I/w Strontian

11.4 The Clerk reported on the Vacancy Procedure Committee’s efforts to replace the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson as Interim Moderator.

Morvern

No report

Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber

No report

12. OVERTURE

Overture Anent Civil Partnerships.

The Clerk outlined the background to this Overture and proposed the Motion that “Presbytery approves the Overture Anent Civil Partnerships”. This was disapproved by 24 votes for disapproval and 3 votes for approval. The Rev David M. Anderson entered his dissent.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet for Reception for Readers and Reader in training, other Preacher, Child Protection Coordinator and Presbyterial Council Representatives and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 5th December 2006 within the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, Fort William at 7.00 pm. The Presbytery Christmas Dinner and Reception to precede the meeting at 5.30 pm.

Closed with prayer

9.35 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk