

At Fort William, and within the hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, the thirty first day of July 2007, at 6.00 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met pro re nata and was constituted with prayer.

1. **SEDERUNT** Present were the Rev A. Ann Winning, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, and twenty full members and three corresponding members of Presbytery. Names as per the sederunt sheet.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE CALL OF MEETING** Presbytery approved the action of the Moderator in calling the pro re nata meeting to deal with the request from the Congregational Board of Arisaig and the Small Isles to sell the manse at Arisaig and related matters.
3. **TRIBUTE** Tribute was paid by both the Moderator and by the Rev Donald MacQuarrie to the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson who died on 19th July 2007.
4. **ROLL** Presbytery received an Elder's Commission in the name of Mr Bob Dalglish from the Kirk Session of Arisaig and the Small Isles.
5. **APOLOGIES** Apologies were received as per the sederunt sheet.
6. **INTIMATION** The Clerk reported that Intimation of the meeting had been posted to all members of Presbytery on 21st July 2007. The congregation of Arisaig and the Small Isles had not been cited to appear as the sale of the manse formed part of the Basis of Linking (Appendix 1 of the Presbytery minute of 26th October 2004) which Presbytery had approved and which had been confirmed by Commission of Assembly.
7. **BASIS OF LINKING** The Clerk read section seven of the Basis of Linking to the meeting: -
Manse: Initially, both the manses of Mallaig & Knoydart and Arisaig & the Small Isles will be retained. A joint meeting of office-bearers will decide on the location of the Manse, as the residence of the Minister, subject to the approval of the Presbytery. Should agreement between the parties not be reached, both congregations will agree to the decision of an arbitrator appointed by the Presbytery. Should, at some later date, a meeting of joint office-bearers decide that the Manse of the linked charge, or a former manse, should be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the approval of the Presbytery and if necessary, of the General Trustees or the General Assembly, the free proceeds of any such sale or let shall be credited to the benefit of the relevant congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.
8. **DISCUSSION**
 - 8.1 Mr George Haggart, the Presbytery Property Working Group Convener, reported (Appendix 1).
 - 8.2 The Rev John Christie, Interim Minister of the charge of Arisaig & the Small Isles linked with Mallaig St. Columba's with Knoydart, outlined the reasons for the request.
 - 8.3 The Rev Alan Lamb, while not wishing to oppose the sale of the manse, commented that he did not agree with the timescale with which the sale was being pursued.

9. DECISION

It was moved, seconded and agreed-
The Presbytery

- 9.1 Approve the sale of the Arisaig manse.
- 9.2 Approve the application to the Central Fabric Fund for a Short Term Loan of up to £165,000.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet “in hunc effectum” on Sunday 2nd September 2007 at 6.30 pm in Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, for the Service of Union between Fort William Duncansburgh and Fort William MacIntosh Memorial and for ordinary business on Tuesday 4th September 2007 in Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, at 6.00 pm. There will be a reception at 4.30 pm to mark the retirement of the Rev Alan Ramsay.

Closed with prayer

6.55 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk

APPENDIX I - Presbytery – Property Report for 31st July Special Meeting

ARISAIG & THE SMALL ISLES LINKED WITH MALLAIG ST COLUMBA’S WITH KNOYDART.

The following pre-amble was contained in my reports of June and October 2006:-

“The linked charge has reached agreement that the Mallaig Manse shall be the Manse for the linked charge and the Arisaig Manse should be sold to provide funding for the planned work to the Mallaig Manse, to separate the Arisaig Manse from the Church and for a Parish Hall to be provided at Arisaig to replace the facilities lost, such as toilets, kitchen and meeting room, as a result of the sale of the Arisaig Manse.

A joint meeting of the Congregational Boards on 22nd March 2006 led to a final agreement by each Board to proceed to application for the necessary approvals”.

The Deliverances of the June and October 2006 reports covered the extension and modifications to Mallaig Manse at a total estimated cost of £74,000 and the provision of a Church Hall at Arisaig at a total estimated cost of £146,000. Both of those Deliverances were agreed by Presbytery.

As stated, it was the intention to sell the Arisaig Manse, the Market Value of which was £235,000 in August 2005, but it was deliberately not included in the Deliverances, as there was uncertainty as to its requirement.

At a Congregational Board of Arisaig and the Small Isles held on 27 June 2007 it was agreed that the Arisaig Manse should be put up for sale. The Kirk Session concurred with this decision at a meeting on 15 July 2007.

This decision is in-line with the original intentions and is part of the Presbytery Plan.