# UNITARIANS IN EDINBURGH: Minutes of Council Meeting

# 11th October 2023 *7pm on Zoom*

*(Any conflicts of interest to be noted as the meeting proceeds)*

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Elyse and Mandy

Present; Joan Cook, Julie Finneran, Brian Robertson, Ann Sinclair.

There was some discussion on the possibility of an in-person meeting in the near future, possibly on a Monday or Friday evening.

Opening Words by Ann

Ann read some words by the Rev Cliff Reed from ‘We Are Here’ on loving neighbours and friends.

1. Minutes of Council meeting 8th August 2023

The minutes were accepted as correct.

1. Update from Ann on roof repairs, financial position and pre-visit questionnaire from insurance company.

Ann reported that the floor in the upper hall had been well protected, with appropriate covering. Scaffolding is now in place on both sides of the building with some internal work already undertaken.

Pre-Visit Questionnaire- the pre-visit questionnaire has been started, and Ann has asked for any contributions as soon as possible please.

Areas which we need further action include Portable Appliance Testing [PAT], we need to find a qualified person to carry this out for us.

Lightning conductor testing has not been done recently, but will be carried out by the contractors on completion of the works.

4. Team Updates:

 Management team / Financial team

The only outgoing costs for the work to date has been the payment of £2, 376 to Hardies [fees + VAT]

It is planned to use some money from the Speed Trust to cover some of the costs of the work, [repair and replacement].

The investment of some of the money in the bank accounts was discussed, and it was agreed that some should be transferred to the Geddie Fund, where it would be accessible if required.

The purchase of a movable monitor for the Church was discussed, this would enable services to take place in the Church, with a service leader on zoom, as well as being used to show screens of those joining by zoom. It could also be used for other purposes, such as enabling visual elements in services. As it would not be a television, it would not require a licence. *[JC to liaise with Euan]*

Ministry team /Pastoral team

There was discussion regarding the dissolution of the pastoral care team, as a formal group. It was decided that as it was operating on a ‘friendly ear’ basis it could continue on an informal basis only. *[JF to contact Jane & Margery]*

Joan reported on her activities as Celebrant, she conducted a baptism on 30/9/23, (for an attender, but not member) and has a wedding planned for early 2025.

It was agreed that Margery Mackay would take on the role of Membership Secretary, we are grateful she has offered to take on this role. *[JC to liaise with Margery]*

Communications team – proposal for consultation exercise.

There have been no recent meetings of this group.

Elyse has offered to lead on a brainstorming exercise on the way forward for ST Mark’s. Brian has offered to assist with this. *[EJ + BR to follow up]*

The possibility of forming a fundraising group was discussed, Julie has offered to be involved, and will approach Mandy who has expertise in this area. *[JF to contact MO]*

The access to Google Docs is continuing to be erratic, it was suggested that a complete overhaul of the Google Docs system is required. *[JF to liaise with EJ]*

The use of the Wayside pulpit to advertise groups/events which would enhance the image of St Mark’s was agreed.

1. Discussion group options.

As St Mark’s does not have anyone prepared to take this on, it was decided that we should encourage people to join the Glasgow group, as they have one up and running, which several St Mark’s people currently attend. This would be a good way of encouraging our connections with other congregations.

1. Set new Smart goals.

We are grateful that Elyse has offered to facilitate a session to set these goals, it was suggested this could be a one item agenda meeting.

1. Invitation to participate in Fair Saturday on 25th November

We have been invited to participate in this event which would include opening our premises and perhaps hosting an exhibition or event giving information as to who we are, and what we do. It was felt that we could not participate this year, due to the ongoing works. It may be possible to take part in the event next year.

8. Upcoming social events

 A group visit to the exhibition on Buddhism at the museum is being considered.

*[JF + Margery]*

9. Safeguarding issues

There were no safeguarding issues raised.

This Policy as well as all other policies are due for review, it was decided that if all policies could be reviewed fin time for our next meeting, any concerns, additions, alterations could be discussed then *[All Council members]*

10. Any Other Competent business

There is a Charities seminar being held at the Royal Scots Club on 28th November, Ann has attended several of these sessions, so if any member of Council wishes to attend the seminar please contact Ann.

11. Date of next meeting? Who will do next ‘words’

The next meeting of Council will be held on 13th November\*, at 7pm, by zoom.

Ann will give the opening & closing words for the meeting.

12. Closing Words, by Ann

Words by Che Guevara, taken from ‘Fragments of Holiness’

*\*NB later changed to 14th November*