

**Minutes of Emergency Vestry Meeting held by Zoom Conference
Call
On Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 6.30 pm**

Present: Elizabeth Roads, Susan Forsyth, Margie Stephen, James Gardner, John Dymond, Judith Poulton, Mary-Clare Brown and John Willis

Following an email received from the Secretary and Acting Chairman, Mark Seymour, a meeting was called of the Vestry members to discuss the best way forward.

Prior discussions had taken place over the phone and it had been agreed that the role of Chairman of the Vestry and Secretary should be separated.

Elizabeth Roads proposed that John Dymond be appointed Interim Chairman until the discernment process was ended and we had a new Rector in place, who will be Chairman of the Vestry.

It was the unanimous view that John Dymond be accepted.

John Willis outlined the current situation and felt that Mark Seymour's email had alerted us all to problems we face, and that we should have a plan going forward to delegate various Vestry tasks currently undertaken by Mark Seymour. He suggested that smaller working groups should be set up.

Elizabeth Roads explained that Mark Seymour had submitted the paperwork to the Diocese by today 5th January to apply for £20k grant towards the Rectory renovations. He had also intimated that he would be the project manager and in charge of Health and Safety issues. It was agreed that Mark should continue to oversee the project

During the Joint Discernment Peter Forrester from St Andrew's Callander was overseeing the process as joint Chairman with Mark

Seymour. Discussion took place as to whether John Dymond as the new Chairman should undertake this task.

Elizabeth Roads suggested that John Dymond speak to the Dean about this and James Gardener suggested this should be done in partnership with Mark Seymour.

Discussion took place as whether it was appropriate that Mark Seymour should be sitting on the Interview Panel for the new Rector - four members felt that because of his dealings with applicants as Secretary he may have already formed an opinion. John Dymond and John Willis felt that Mark Seymour should remain on the interview panel as we had already had 2 votes on this.

John Dymond agreed to speak to Mark Seymour explaining that he had been appointed interim Chairman during the discernment and he would speak to the Dean of the Diocese to explain matters.

John Willis felt that a smaller management group should be set up to take things forward as lots of issues needed to be addressed and we needed to decide on a process of change. He, as did others, pointed out that we must show that we are a Vestry which delegates and that at some stage communication must be made with the wider congregation about this. At present most issues are dealt with by Mark Seymour. Over the years he has asked that people step forward to take on some of these tasks, and some are undertaken by other ie concerts, but he has taken most of them on himself.

A working Sub Group was appointed, the members being:

John Dymond, John Willis, Susan Forsyth and James Gardner, with Mark Seymour becoming involved later.

This Group is to subdivide the Vestry tasks and come up with a plan to be put to the full Vestry meeting on 15th January.

The sub Group agreed to meet on Thursday 7th January at 5.30 pm with a further meeting of this group, ie Full Vestry without Mark Seymour, on Friday 8th January at 6.30 pm with Alistair Gardner joining us at 7.30pm

John Dymond asked that any ideas people had, from looking at the list already compiled by Elizabeth Roads and John Willis, should be sent to him by email by close of day on Wednesday 6th January.

The Meeting was closed and all thanked for attending.