

Present – Father Jim, Father Alexander, Janice Dobbin, Rena Robertson, Linda Taylor, Claire Valentine, Avril Kidd, Gerry Laing, Marie Shafi , David Bald

Welcoming - John O Meara ,Dom McBennet Scottish Water, Andy Reid DCC senior engineer- flood risk

Apologies - Audrey Toshney

1. Drainage strategy explained – St Mary’s area water drainage issues including how more likely the event of flooding happening will be in the future.  
Bluegreen infrastructure – future improvements using natural basins, planting, beds and ponds.  
Running track and park area suggested from Scottish Water and DCC. Specialist planting that will improve natural habitat. Working with landscape architects and engineers.  
Connected with schools to get feedback from younger community. Two more rounds of public consultation then work will start, so 18 months/2 years before working with the church. Looked at maps of the areas and different proposals. John to get in touch with Dom to pass on questions to Trustees.  
Brought up the use of the car park for school parents and how this will be affected by these changes.
2. School parking – DCC replied to David’s email about legality of car par use. Continue to keep the gates closed, especially over the winter months. All sides disappointed with the outcome of how we have to manage the car park and have a strong will to maintain relationship with school parents. Concerns about the church car park usage if the full road is closed to access at school start and finish times. Continued discussion about solutions that suit all sides.
3. Car park repairs to go ahead just now to maintain and repair immediate issues. Asked for handrail to be suggested for small gate stairs and asked about hall stairs. John said report said that church and grounds in good repair.
4. Heating survey issued to parish council this morning. John discussed church heating and windows. New boiler would save 25% on heating bills, church radiators fine, so boiler replacement recommended- approx. £10 000. A more renewable system with insulation recommended but more costly. Insulation would be suggested, looking at grants to improve insulation in church and hall. John asked us to discuss this further but decision to be made in next few years, holding off on any new boiler changes until insulation looked at. Gerry to get in touch with Alison Colgan to ask about grants for insulation. Suggested low energy lighting through church, flat and hall. Discussion about benefits of solar panels and how they might add some savings to church hall.
5. Church and altar alterations. Still aiming to make changes for target of 2025. Building warrants and architects will take time to go through the process, preparation can still go ahead. Continue with planning now and proposals in process, Bruno from Ormsby of Scarisbrick working on ideas now, and all safety issues taken into account as well as design.
6. Cosy space still quiet but more people have been passing on the times and advertising it. Food and hygiene courses discussed and looking into grants. Community word is spreading. John to chase up environmental health, as they have not replied to previous contact.