

ST JOHN'S DIAMOND CREEK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday 8 November 2023

The meeting opened at 7.35pm by the Vicar, The Ven Dr. Tim Johnson

1. Prayer and Bible reading

Tim opened in prayer and scripture from Hebrews 12:1-2.

Trusting God, running the race with perseverance and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

2. Tim acknowledged the triune God's ownership of all things and acknowledged the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land where we are meeting.

3. Apologies: names (see appendix A)

Attendees: names (see appendix B)

Chair: Tim Johnson

Minute Secretary: Carolyn Burns

4. Minutes of previous meeting:

AGM – Wednesday 9 November 2022

- Page 4, point 9 - Remove the word *Draft* budget.
- Remove the word *adopted* and replace with the word *received*.
- Page 5. Motion: Remove the name *Bruce Allen* and leave GNS.

Motion: With the above changes we accept the Minutes of last year's AGM as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Debbie Wadson

Seconded: David Smith

Carried unanimously.

5. Reception of the Electoral Roll

There are 197 names on the Parish Electoral Roll. The quorum required for this meeting is one-fifth of the Roll (40 people). The quorum has been met. (43 people)

Motion: the 2023 electoral roll be received.

Moved: Mick fisher

Seconded: Janeece McPherson

Carried unanimously.

6. Notice of Items for any other business

No other items received. Questions are invited later in this meeting.

7. Senior Minister's Report – Tim Johnson

Taken as read.

This report is a collaborative effort from staff and ministry teams put together as one. Tim gave thanks for each person's work and preparation of these reports and the valuable contribution produced throughout 2022/23. Tim also thanked leaders and volunteers in all ministries with special attention to the leaders and volunteers of the children's ministry at St John's as they stepped up to lead the children so faithfully and ably in the absence of a children's and families minister for 6 months of the year.

Tim mentioned the church's renewed energy and engagement transitioning from 2022 to 2023. Our vision this year was to reconnect all ages and build a sense of belonging. Praise God we have seen this happen in the past year. Our church services have shown an overall growth of 18% from the previous year. The health of our church is evident through the many ministries as we re-engage with our community through larger and smaller events. Our Life Groups continue to support each other in many ways as they study the word of God.

We were understaffed for much of the year. We had budget constraints. We didn't replace Kirk Mackenzie and we realigned responsibilities. Kylie Pilkington finished up at the end of 2022 and Cam Berndt finished up in

April 2022 and for 6 months we had no children's families minister, until the appointment of Maddy Bialecki in July 2023.

Future

We continue with our vision:

Reconnect and build a multiethnic and intergenerational network of congregations, Life Groups and mission initiatives for Diamond Creek and northern suburbs.

Reconnection has gone very well. We have engaged in mission, and we need to strengthen our outward focus and continue to figure out our role in the Northeastern growth corridor of Melbourne. Tim mentioned that Diamond Creek is changing as it becomes more multiethnic. We need to prepare and pray, being ready to welcome and include everyone into our community.

Tim's 10th year as Senior Minister at St John's was celebrated, and Tim looks forward to what God will do in the coming years as he leads our church. Tim thanked Staff, Wardens, Treasurer and Parish Council for their prayerful, pastoral and strategic minded approach in all aspects of Governance. Tim thanked Vicki Miller and Chloe Manson who are not renominating for Parish Council this year. They have loved and served our church very well in their role.

God is good all the time and He has exceeded what has happened in the life of our church. To Him be all the thanks, praise and glory.

Questions were invited and none were raised.

8. Statement of Accounts 2022/2023 – David Woods, Treasurer

The four sections of finance matters are as follows:

1. A 3-page report consolidated income and expense summary for 2022/23 and budget for the year ended 30 September 2024
2. Financial Report - Audited accounts 2022/2023
3. Budget 2023/24
4. Auditor

The Parish has been blessed with a strong financial platform enabling it to vigorously pursue the ministry Vision Statement 2025. This platform is both a blessing and challenge to us as we seek to fulfill our commitment to 'Know Jesus. Make Jesus know'.

Reports taken as read.

Income and expenditure for the 2022/23

The total income is \$58k over budget because:

- Regular offertory is over budget by \$8k.
- Other Income (line 8) is up \$12k and includes hall hire, interest and weddings.
- Bequests and Grant (line 9) which includes a very generous one-off gift of \$30k from a church family.

Total expenses (line 24) is under budget by \$27k primarily due to the delay in appointing our new Generations Minister (line 15). 85% of our expenditure is in 3 areas: staff (lines 14,15 & 16), mission partners (line 19) and Diocesan assessment (line 18).

The result for the year, as shown on line 26 is a surplus of \$49k compared to a budgeted deficit of \$37k.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

The main change in the Assets is a change in allocation of surplus cash to investments. As the Interest rates started to go up, we placed cash that was not immediately required into term deposits hence the increase in interest received.

Total liabilities reduced slightly from \$179k to \$175k. There is only a \$1k reduction in the ADF loan we have for the toilet project (\$124k). For the last 2 years this loan has been underwritten by a church family. However, as interest on deposits went up so did the interest on the loan. Hence the repayments, in the second half of the year, only covered the interest and there was only a very small reduction in the actual loan balance for the year. Wardens have this under active consideration regarding this situation. The decision has been made not to use the surplus cash we have to reduce the principal. A key consideration here is that any increase in the loan repayments cannot be redrawn should it be needed for future ministry. In the meantime, the amount of the monthly loan repayments does not increase but rather the term of the loan extended.

Questions were invited and none asked.

Motion: That the audited accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023 be received.

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Rob Shackleton

Carried unanimously.

9. Budget 2023/2024

Taken as read.

The Parish Council has approved the budget which proposes a deficit of \$36k (line 26).

This is a turnaround of \$85k compared to 22/23. The two principal reasons for this turnaround are the absence of the special gift and the full year for the Generations Minister. Both being the opposite to the reasons for the surplus last year.

The Offertory (line 2) assumes a 3% increase over last year, but the Thanksgiving budget (Line 3) assumes the same result as last year ie; \$40k. The 3% increase in Offertory and no increase in Thanksgiving seemed a fair assumption in the current economic climate.

On the expense side there are large increases in the Leadership (line 14) and Generations Ministry (line 15). The Leadership amount incorporates increases in benefits mandated by Archbishop in Council. The Generations Ministry increase reflects a full year of employment and an extra day a week of ministry, i.e. from 4 to 5 days.

Questions were invited and none asked.

Motion: That the 2023/24 budget as presented be received

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Maddy Bialecki

Carried unanimously.

10. Appointment of Auditor

Following last year's audit, Mr Bruce Allen advised that he was retiring after a countless number of years being the Parish's Auditor. David has expressed to Bruce our great appreciation for his long, faithful and professional service.

This year the audit was conducted by Mr Philip Ruth of GNS. Philip provided the same high standards as previously.

Motion: That GNS Group be appointed auditor for the 2023/24 financial year.

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Rob Shackleton

Carried unanimously.

David thanked Dianne Cheraghi for her wonderful bookkeeping skills and support. Supported ably by Henrike Brussaard-Kerr and Carolyn Burns. David thanked Natalie Coleman for her support as Finance Warden.

11. Churchwardens' Report – Mick Fisher

Taken as read.

Mick Fisher spoke on behalf of the Wardens namely Natalie Coleman, Alan Fairweather, and himself.

This was a year of regrouping after lock downs of Covid. We had challenges and successes that were celebrated.

Mick thanked Parish Council including David Woods as our noble Treasurer for attending meetings month after month making insightful and prayerful decisions. A particular note of thanks to Graham Batcheler who is continuing to investigate solar panels for the church. Chloe Manson and Vicki Miller are stepping down this year from Parish Council and they have both made an invaluable contribution.

We once again go into a deficit budget in which David reiterated the challenges of this which has been in the forefront of the Wardens minds. The Wardens are pleased that we have the approval of the budget to go ahead.

Mick thanked Alan Fairweather as property warden who works tirelessly around the property with working bees and essential safety measures.

Mick highlighted the shipping container that is now in the lower carpark used to provide storage for many ministries.

Thanks to Nat Coleman who as finance warden is keeping track of finances with David month after month.

Mick explained his role is mainly keeping track of staff issues. Several staff moved on ie, Kirk, Kylie, and Cameron and Maddy joined us in which we are very pleased.

Questions invited:

Adam Coleman asked, "where are we at with the solar panels"?

Answer: Graham is still Investigating the prospect of solar panels asking questions such as: can we install them on the church roof? What are our obligations as we have a heritage building? Would we have batteries? Electrical aspect?. Quotes have been sought and because we are not a domestic location one company declined. The process is continuing.

Victor Jetten suggested that solar panels may alter our insurance and having a battery will definitely alter the insurance.

Motion: That the Churchwardens' report be received.

Moved: Mick Fisher

Seconded: Vicki Miller

Carried unanimously.

12. Adoption of modified Parish Rules for Meetings and Officers

The Parish Governance Act came into effect in 2013. This act covers several things including the rules for parish meetings and officers. As a parish we made modifications which were adopted on 17 Aug 2014, and they expire after 10 years ie; August 2024 before the 2024 AGM.

We propose to adopt the same modified rules as we have been using over the past 10 years. These have been published and displayed for your review. The modifications are:

- 3.2 and 3.3 relate to when nominations need to be received and published. We have increased the amount of time so that none of our congregations are disadvantaged. Nominations must be received at least 9 days (3.2) and displayed at least 4 days (3.3) before the time fixed for the commencement of the annual meeting.
- 10.1 relates to the size of Parish Council and is modified to have 6 parish council members instead of 9. We believe this has been effective.

Motion: That the modified parish rules for meetings and officers as published on our website and notice board be adopted.

Moved: Tim Johnson

Seconded: Ken Manson

Carried unanimously.

Tim will notify the registrar at the Diocese, and this will be in effect for the next 10 years.

13. Election of Wardens and Parish Council

There are three Wardens positions and three nominations. Two are elected positions and one is appointed by the Vicar. Mick Fisher has once again accepted Tim's appointment. Alan Fairweather and Natalie Coleman are elected unopposed.

There are six Parish Council positions and six nominations. Four positions are elected and two appointed by the Vicar. The Vicar has appointed Leah Rudd, and he has one more to appoint. David Woods, Dushi Arul, Graham Batcheler and Chris Grinton are all elected unopposed. The Wardens appoint the Treasurer and David Woods will continue in this role.

14. Election of Incumbency Committee

With a single parish electoral roll, two people are to be elected as parish representatives on the Incumbency Committee. Therefore, Chris Grinton and Jacinta Berndt are elected unopposed. The Wardens will also appoint one of their members to the Incumbency Committee at their first meeting.

15. Parochial Statistics

Tabled at the AGM

Church service (in person and digital) statistics are within the Annual Reports and are extremely encouraging. Our digital service continues to serve us well in a different way and a different season.

We have slightly less Life Groups compared to last year but there are more people overall in them. There will need to be a focus on encouraging new groups and new leaders.

There are encouraging statistics in children's ministry, youth, and young adults. We rejoice that 20 of our young adults went away together last weekend for relationship building and spiritual filling and refreshment.

Questions: Dianne Cheraghi asked how on the Diocese parochial statistics 2a and 2b is 1 number difference.

Answer: There are some services that don't fall on a Sunday ie; Ash Wednesday.

Motion – The Parochial Statistics for 2022/23 be received.

Moved: Tim Johnson

Seconded: Chris Fisher

Carried unanimously.

16. Other Reports

Questions invited:

Janeece McPherson asked about the CMS mission partner the Snibsons?

Answer: Derek and Rosemary Snibson work in Darwin. They are Joel Snibson's parents.

Adam Coleman asked about the Persian Resurrection Church (PRC) regarding the health and interest in continuing to use our church building in 2024 and beyond?

Answer: PRC are happy here at our facility and we have a very good mutual relationship. We want to strengthen, support, and encourage them as they reach out to Iranian people. Tim preached at the PRC service and Meysam from PRC preached at St John's this year.

Alan Fairweather evoked a heartfelt thanks to Sue and Victor Jetten for the huge amount of work and Godly contribution they make to leading our music ministry and recently organised a training day in which 30 St John's musicians were involved. Alan also acknowledged Sue's dedication and leadership to mainly music as well. We thank you Victor and Sue.

17. Any other business

No other business

Close in prayer

Tim Johnson 8.44pm

APPENDIX A

APOLOGY REGISTER

Charlotte Chidell	Ros Manson
Lyndell Whiting	Tim Hemsworth
Peter Fidock	Jo Hemsworth
Nerida Fidock	Sue Batcheler
Neil Bland	Pam Hickingbotham
Robyn Bland	David Hickingbotham
Margaret Willis	Bill Ward
Jan Hollingsworth	June Williams
Barry Hollingsworth	Val Phillips
Deb Allen	Robyn Gorfine
Carol Randle	Rod Gorfine
Yvonne Dunt	Pam Woods
Jess McCue	Scott Pilkington
Pam Barras	Ella Tregale
Tania Grinton	Alison Knuckey
Belinda Grinton	Isobel Fisher
Kirsten Grinton	Anna Greenhalgh
Rod Smith	Leigh Greenhalgh
Janice Smith	Beth Thorsen
Jason Bialecki	Wilf Thorsen
Lenny Barras	Dora Huggins
Anna Johnson	
Pam Fletcher	
Olga Forsyth	
Nikki Isaks	

APPENDIX B ATTENDANCE REGISTER

NAME	NAME
Mike Fisher	Dushi Arulanantham
Andy Barras	Sanjeev Rajathevan
Ross Isaks	Bev Ward
Carolyn Fairweather	Rob Shackleton
David Woods	Delle Matthews
Lawrence Howes	Gary Burke
Carolyn Burns	Robyn Burke
Dianne Cheraghi	Sue Jetten
Graham Batcheler	Victor Jetten
Ken Manson	Chris Fisher
Chris Grinton	Chloe Manson
Mark Pilkington	Ellie Plumridge
Neil Barras	Philip Wadeson
Janeece McPherson	Debra Wadeson
Damien Knuckey	Maddy Bialecki
Adam Coleman	Kay Thomson
Nat Coleman	Leanne Turnbull
Warwick Miller	Kay Thomson
Vicki Miller	
Patrick Thomson	
Kylie Pilkington	
Leah Rudd	
Margie Baxter	
David Smith	
Margaret McNicol	
Simon Veerhuis	