
Wodonga Lutheran Parish

Minutes for 2017 AGM held at St John's Church on Sunday 5th March 2017.

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Chairperson Adrian Gutsche, declared the meeting open at 12:35 p.m., welcomed all present and declared the AGM a fully constituted meeting with enough members present to vote.

2. Present

- 2.1. As per the AGM attendance & voting registration sheet in the Minute book there were:
2.1.1. 61 members of the Parish; and
2.1.2. 1 Pastor recorded.

3. Apologies

- 3.1. As per the AGM attendance & voting registration sheet in the Minute book there were 13 apologies recorded.

4. Devotion

- 4.1. Led by Pastor Jaswanth Kukatlapalli.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1. In: Nil recorded for the AGM.
5.2. Out: Nil recorded for the AGM.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 6.1. Correction to item 8.2.5 word changed to EQUIP rather than QUIP. Pastor Jaswanth noted he forgot to thank Wendy Dwyer in item 8.1.7 and asked that it be mentioned in this years minutes.
6.2. Moved Paul Vogelsang and Seconded by Elke Haslam that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 1st March 2016 be accepted as presented with correction noted above. **CARRIED.**

7. Business Arising from Minutes

- 7.1. Report on Option 6: "Build a church facility at Victory Lutheran College and undertake a no-profit development at Havelock Street Site". Other options "Do Nothing" or "Renovate and upgrade current site".
7.1.1. Tim McInnes, on behalf of the Plant and Equipment Committee, gave an overview of the process undertaken to date in regards to the 6 options investigated. After the Parish's approval to investigate further option 6 last year the Parish Councils is recommending this option be taken up but was looking for final direction and approval from the Parish members.
7.1.2. Members were referred to minutes of previous minutes from AGM's and special Parish meetings.
7.1.3. A question was asked whether a Financial/Business Plan was available. A business plan from the parish as such is not required due to no money being borrowed. The financial figures can be provided on request to the Plant & equipment committee.

- 7.1.4. A question was asked as to the period of time without a church. The expectation is that the Parish would be required to worship in a temporary location for up to 3 years. The final time would be dependent on how popular the development is and how quickly it sells;
- 7.1.5. A question was asked about the availability of a temporary worshiping space. John Thompson indicated that the Parish is more than welcome to use facilities at the college and while final details would need to be worked through but it wouldn't be a problem;
- 7.1.6. A question was asked about special services requirements such as weddings & funerals. John Thompson indicated that his experience at other schools with a worshipping space in the grounds was that the students treat services such as funerals with the utmost respect. Other options such as other Lutheran Church on the border were mentioned.
- 7.1.7. Question was asked if appropriate to use Luther Hall as a place of worship due to caveats placed in the government funding used to build it. Glenn Wright indicated that this could be an issue that would have to be worked through. One possible solution raised from the floor was for the church to rent a space.
- 7.1.8. Question was asked about sub-dividing the current church site and using funds to redevelop the site. This option along with others have already been investigated and found not to be viable in the longer term. One of the main issues is the long term viability with a constant income stream required, other than weekly offerings, and so far option 6 is the only one that gives this possibility. No other information or options have developed in the mean time to change this.
- 7.1.9. Comment from the floor indicted that: We are hamstrung in our Mission & Ministry at the moment by being pre-occupied with keeping a roof over our heads; we can rent Luther Hall to counter the funding caveats and there is no issue with using the hall for weddings and funerals.
- 7.1.10. Pastor Jaswanth gave thanks for the Plant & Equipment Committee's work to get the Parish to this decision making point.
- 7.1.11. Comment from the Parish Council is that if approval from the Parish is given to proceed with option 6 there is no turning back although, there will be at least a 6 month planning and preparation period before the final viability will be known. The developers need a clear mandate to allow them to invest the money required (at their own risk) to start this process to determine final viability.
- 7.1.12. Jenny Simboras moved and Seconded: by Paul Vogelsang:
The Wodonga Lutheran Parish go ahead with option 6 which entails a development on the Havelock St site and a move to the Victory Lutheran College site where a new Church will be built. Voting was conducted with a secret ballot, John Alatalo asked for it to be noted that he abstained from voting, Pastor also did not vote. **CARRIED 52 votes to 9.** Post meeting note - discrepancy found between number of registered attendees at 62, of which 2 abstained, and number of votes cast at 61. However even if 1 vote taken from highest tally the result still stands.

8. Parish Reports

- 8.1. Pastoral Report – As Tabled by Congregational Pastor Jaswanth Kukatlapalli.
- 8.2. Chairpersons Report – As Tabled by Adrian Gutsche. Adrian highlighted:
 - 8.2.1. Contrary to what was mentioned in his report recent surveys indicate that the numbers attending church have remained stable and haven't declined.
- 8.3. Treasurer's Report – None tabled due to Merv Keller's health. The chairperson Adrian noted:
 - 8.3.1. Much public thanks to both Merv & Rhonda Keller for their many years of service in this role for the church as well as the still ongoing work to ensure the finances are still being looked after.
 - 8.3.2. A question was asked if the District has been paid for last financial year. The answer was yes.
 - 8.3.3. The general profit & loss statement from the last available Parish Council meeting was requested with figures from December & January given.

8.3.4. Moved: Adrian Gutsche and Seconded: by Paul Vogelsang that the budget from last year be accepted as an interim until a new treasurer is appointed. Also that Heather wage be increased by \$5 per week and that ATS are the Church auditor for 2017.

CARRIED.

8.4. Saver's Corner – As Tabled by Maria Davidson.

8.4.1. It was noted that this year saw a 30% increase in profits from last year to a round of applause.

8.5. Women's Fellowship – As Tabled by Marie Hill.

8.6. Parish Nurse – As Tabled by Angela Uhrhane.

8.6.1. Angela has recently resigned from her role and thanks the Parish for the opportunity to serve in the role. She also offered to assist with training anyone interested in taking on the role.

8.6.2. Adrian Gutsche gave much public thanks to Angela for her years of service to the Parish as their nurse.

8.7. Victory Lutheran College Principal & Chairperson's Report – As Tabled by John Thompson & Alan Wiebusch.

8.8. Victory Lutheran College Finance Report – presented by Glen Wright the Business Manager for VLC.

8.8.1. Question was asked if the VLC fee schedule needs to be presented to the Parish at the AGM. Fee schedule is approved by VLC College Council every year.

8.8.2. Question was asked about what the new loans budgeted for in 2018 & 2019 were for. 2018 is for development of year 5/6 building in line with moving to triple streaming in primary school. This would be in conjunction with a 50/50 state government grant the college has applied for with notification expected in May/June. 2019 is for the next stage in redeveloping the primary school.

8.8.3. A question was asked about the current and projected debt per student figures and where it stood against industry benchmarks. The current debt per student is in line with what is expected for a growing school, which VLC is.

8.8.4. Moved: Phil Suter and Seconded: by Kevin Weincke that the VLC Budget be accepted. **CARRIED.**

8.8.5. Moved: Karen Starr and Seconded: by Roger Farrell that the VLC Reports be accepted. **CARRIED.**

9. General Business

9.1. Parish Constitution & By Laws:

9.1.1. Amendments have been made to the draft copies of these documents as were issued to the Parish for comment.

9.1.2. Changes to definition of a member of the church in that they need to commune at least twice a year.

9.1.3. Moved: Susan Edwards and Seconded: by Marie Hill that the changes to the draft Constitution & By Laws documents for accepted and forwarded to the District Constitutions Committee for approval. **CARRIED.**

9.1.4. Comment was made that the Parish logo needs to have the LCA logo incorporated and that the current logo hasn't been formally accepted by the Parish.

9.2. Regularisation Call for Pastor Jaswanth.

9.2.1. Pastor Jaswanth excused himself from the meeting while the Parish discussed his Regularisation Call.

9.2.2. The Parish's commitment statements made to a Pastor in our call documents was read out as a reminder to all.

9.2.3. A number of statements of support were made in support of Pastor Jaswanth's work amounts the Parish over the past 2 years.

9.2.4. Moved: Pastor Ernie Kiss and Seconded: by Marie Hill that the Parish Regularise Pastor's Jaswanth's call. **CARRIED.**

9.3. Letter requesting review of Parish service times.

9.3.1. Letter read to the Parish asking that it consider swapping the service times for Sundays between Wodonga and Yackandandah. The aim is to allow families with children the chance to attend before Sunday sporting commitments.

- 9.3.2. Various comment where made from the floor in support for both keeping and changing the services times.
- 9.3.3. Moved: Sheryl Parsons and Seconded: by Pastor Ernie Kiss that a survey be conducted on whether to change Sunday service times. **CARRIED.**
- 9.4. Review of Family Services.
 - 9.4.1. Will be twelve months in July since they started;
 - 9.4.2. Comment from the floor and general agreement that the term Intergenerational Service being used specifically for these services is not correct as all services are considered to be this.
 - 9.4.3. Financial loss experienced when these services are held due to overall attendance being less then when the 3 normal services held.
 - 9.4.4. General support from the floor for the fellowship experienced at these services.
 - 9.4.5. Moved: Susan Edwards and Seconded: by Kerry Donker that the Parish services continue on the 1st weekend of the month. **CARRIED.**
- 9.5. VLC Parish Pastor Financial Support
 - 9.5.1. Pastor Jaswanth excused himself from the meeting while the Parish discussed this issue.
 - 9.5.2. Concern was raised as an agenda item about the time Pastor Jaswanth was spending at the college to support them during the vacancy and whether the college should be contributing financially.
 - 9.5.3. Comment was made that the chief concern should be about Pastor's workload rather than who pays as we are all one Parish, also when Pastor Tim spent a significant amount of time supporting the congregation during their vacancy the college supported this unconditionally.
 - 9.5.4. Concern was raised that by spending more time at the college Pastor Jaswanth wasn't able to contribute fully to the ministry of the Parish.
 - 9.5.5. John Thompson indicated that he was not expecting the College to over burden the Pastor.
 - 9.5.6. Part of Parish Councils role is to support Pastor with his work load and help with his priorities when it becomes too great.
 - 9.5.7. Moved: Phil Edwards and Seconded: by Ruth Fraunfelder that VLC recognise the extra work load for Pastor within the college and consider a financial contribution towards that. **NOT CARRIED.**
- 9.6. Moved: Pastor Graeme Zweck and Seconded: by Craig Laughton that greetings from the Wodonga Lutheran Parish be sent to Rhonda & Merv Keller **CARRIED.**

10. Election of Office Bearers

- 10.1. Parish Council. Pastor Jaswanth took the Chair and asked for nominations from the floor for Chairperson. Adrian Gutsche did not renominate due to College Council duties. Nominations for Chairperson & Auxiliary Member Paul Schirmer where taken from the floor, all others via nominations committee prior to AGM.
 - 10.1.1. Chairperson: Phill Edwards.
Moved Pastor John Simboras, Seconded by Pastor Ernie Kiss. **CARRIED.**
 - 10.1.2. Treasurer: Paul Vogelsang.
 - 10.1.3. Secretary: Peter Lade.
 - 10.1.4. Auxiliary Members: Tim McInnes, Adrian Gutsche, Karen Starr, Jenny Simboras, Andrew Enever, and John Alatalo.
 - 10.1.5. Auxiliary Member: Paul Schirmer.
Moved Phillip Edwards, Seconded by Nicole Keller. **CARRIED.**
 - 10.1.6. Craig Laughton withdrew his nomination for Auxiliary Member.
 - 10.2. VLC College Council. Adrian advised that nominations will be taken and presented to the Parish in Apr/May for ratification.
 - 10.3. College Pastor. Adrian Gutsche advised of the establishment of a call committee so please consider contributing if asked to join.
 - 10.4. Pastor Jaswanth requested that all appointed members be installed during an upcoming church service at a date to be agreed.
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11. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed at: 3.20. p.m.

Closing Prayer & Blessings by Pastor Jaswanth

Secretary

Peter Lade: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson

Phill Edwards: Phillip Edwards Date: 28 May 2017