

	Fort William Kilmallie Kirk Session Meeting on 2nd July 2026, 7pm in the Upper Room
Welcome:	Our Interim Moderator Rev. Dugald Cameron, Minister of Appin and Lismore, welcomed all of us to the Fort William Kilmallie Kirk Session Meeting held on 2 nd July 2026, at 7pm in the Upper Room of the Duncansburgh Church.
Constituting:	Rev. Dugald Cameron constituted the meeting with Prayer, a reading from Matthew 11 : v16-19 and v 25-30 and a short exposition of these verses.
Sederunt:	<i>Fort William Kilmallie Kirk Session:</i> Alister McDonald, Hugh Cameron, Malcolm MacRaild, Sheana Fraser, Aileen Haggart, Mike MacGruer, Norma MacLellan, Sallie Parrish, Margaret Antonios, Andy Muirhead, Margaret Adam, Joan MacKintosh, Ian Fleming, Mary Elliott, Mabel Wallace, Jimmy Cameron, Christine Houston.
Apologies:	<i>Interim Moderator :</i> Rev. Dugald Cameron <i>Associate OLMs :</i> Rev. Morag Muirhead <i>Observers :</i> John MacIntyre, Margaret MacPhee, Jean Sneddon, Flora Cook, Gordon Gair, Jean Ferguson, Christine Hutchison, M. Aitchison, Rhoda Beedie, Roberta Gillies, Rosemary Green, Fiona Reed, Bryan & Margaret Bellwood. <i>Observers from Kilmonivaig KS:</i> John Fotheringham. <i>Apologies:</i> Gail Young, Phamie Burns, Marion Malcolm, Rev. David Anderson.
Agenda Item 2 Approval of Minutes	The KS approved the revised KS Minutes for the meeting on 19 th March 2026; proposed by Andy Muirhead, seconded by Sheana Fraser. The KS approved the KS Minutes for the previous meeting on the 7 th May 2026: proposed by Joan MacKintosh, seconded by Alister McDonald. Both of these documents were circulated to the KS prior to the 2 nd July meeting.
Agenda Item 3 Matters Arising	<i>Review of Action Points :</i> The Action Points are all completed or covered in the respective items later on the Agenda.
Agenda Item 4 Approval of Agenda and Raising of AOCB	AOCB – Joan MacKintosh has new leaflets as examples for describing the Duncansburgh Church, with translations in progress. The KS thanked Joan. 2nd July 2026 Action Point 1 : An item on these leaflets could be included in the next newsletter.
Agenda Item 5 Interim Moderator's Report	The Interim Moderator (IMod), Rev. Dugald reported on the following : ➤ Rev. Dugald will be conducting the services at Kilmonivaig and in the Duncansburgh on 5 th July 2026. ➤ The CEI Special Committee : It is Presbytery's responsibility for a charge in vacancy. A special committee of three people has been appointed: Rev Amanda MacQuarrie, Rev. Willem Bezuidenhout, Doreen Henderson. They will be with us for a relatively short time. Their remit from CEI is to ascertain the way ahead for our congregation and for Kilmonivaig. They may ask for information from the office bearers, such as the report from <i>Place for Hope</i> , prior to meeting with both Kirk Sessions. These will be Presbytery meetings, thus it will be up to the Special Committee who attends : probably only the Trustee Elders in each congregation. The Special Committee will hear, reflect, and come back to the two KSs with proposals. The likely dates for the CEI meetings with the Kirk Sessions are : 1 st meeting on Wednesday 16th September 2026 [changed from 23 rd Sept]; 2 nd meeting on Tuesday 20th October 2026 .

	The Special Committee will decide whether to meet with both KSs together, or Kilmonivaig at 3pm and Fort William Kilmallie at 7pm. The key topics are likely to be : sustainability, people, finances, buildings, general life [relating to our communities?]. The IM will have a copy of their full remit once it is available. The Special Committee have to report to the November 2026 CEI Presbytery meeting. The IM invited questions, but there were none yet. ➤ <i>The possibility of an Interim Minister.</i> The IM has sent a draft application to CEI and 121, (may need SCs to sign a request). This is a long shot but funding money is available now because of a cancellation in CEI, and someone is interested. Interim ministers have a support system in place. (Comments were made about having an Interim Minister would lighten the load on office bearers.) <i>Questions : Is there any time-frame for an Int. Min. ?</i> DC : probable meeting led by Daran Golby from 121 in August 2026. <i>Does the Int. Min. appointment have to wait until after the Special Committee report to CEI in Nov 2026 ?</i> No, the quest for an Int. Minister will start before the Special Committee come and the two matters can be in tandem : and the Interim Minister would work with the Special Committee recommendations. ➤ The appointment of an Interim Minister would usually be for up to 2 years as the full-time minister. The two congregations would be asked to vote about having an Interim Minister, during whose time in this position the vacancy procedure would be suspended (sisted). <u>2nd July 2026 Motion 1</u> : The KS approved the progress being made in the application for an Interim Minister by rumbling their feet.
Agenda Item 6 Place for Hope	Following the Congregational Meeting on 22nd June 2026 chaired by <i>Place for Hope</i>: Revs Russell McLarty+Judith MacLeod who will make recommendations for the KS from the feedback at the meeting. The draft report from <i>Place for Hope</i> was sent to the three groups of three in the working group on 1st July. It contains factual errors and comments are being sent to the <i>Place for Hope</i> duo. The final version of the report will be sent to the KS who will send it to CEI and the Special Committee. The KS will discuss its reaction to the final report once it is received. The SC had a question on when it would be shared with the whole congregation.
Agenda Item 7 Kirk Courts - CEI news and Ministry Update	<i>Report on relevant items in CEI Presbytery news</i> by Revs Dugald and Morag : - The CEI Presbytery meeting on 24th Sept is in person in Strathpeffer. [DC is intending trying all the treatments !] - We are in the Mission District called Lochaber and Argyll. What may this mean for Presbytery meetings ? Currently ministers are missing the fellowship of meeting in person. There needs to be a purpose for going to a meeting, such as building fellowships. <i>Update on Worship Leaders' training</i> – there was a 10 week training course, with 3 practical tests. In addition, John Fotheringham has undertaken training for preaching and is about to receive his accreditation. Marion Malcolm finished her course in late June. Rev Morag has submitted her reports on both folk. <i>Stated Annual Meeting</i> – the date for the SAM to present the Annual Accounts for 2025 to be received by the congregation was held on the 21st June 2026.

	The IMod. was unable to be present, with his own Parish services to conduct. Rev. David Anderson moderated this SAM, having received a letter of Approval from the IMod.																														
Agenda Item 8 Mission Plan Implementation	<i>The All Church Youth Group</i>– David Duncan has applied to use our Old Hall for meetings for this ecumenical venture working with High School-age children. The Salvation Army are involved. There was a supportive discussion , including that the BB equipment would be available for them. <u>2nd July 2026 Motion 2</u> : The KS approved offering this group a contract for 6 months rent-free as our contribution, then this arrangement will be reviewed. Posters and flyers are available and will be sent to Hannah and Joan (<i>facebook</i>).																														
Agenda Item 9 Worship and Outreach	<i>Lochaber Alive ecumenical services</i> run for 6 Sunday afternoons in July until the 9th August 2026 on the gravel at the front door of the Duncansburgh Church. This ground belongs to the church, thus no external permission is needed. An American Big Band Christian event is being held in the DB in mid-August.																														
Agenda Item 10 Finance Group Update :	Sheana Fraser (SF), the Finance Convenor, reported on the following. Please refer to the Finance Report, dated 2nd July 2026, sent out prior to this meeting. 1. Receipts & Payments <table><tr><td></td><td>May 2026</td><td>June 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Bank balance on 1st of month</td><td>£45,483.54</td><td>£36,874.99</td></tr><tr><td>Bank balance at month end.</td><td>£36,864.99</td><td>£31,289.27</td></tr><tr><td>Income</td><td>£24,836.65</td><td>£6,881.12</td></tr><tr><td><i>Notes:</i></td><td><i>Sing for Your Supper</i> £625 <i>Candlelit Concert</i> £450 <i>Waived levy</i> £14,092.74 <i>Ch of S</i> £3,744.72 <i>Open Days</i> £228.15</td><td>Council tax refund £717.10 Dividend HSBC £63.69 'Open' days £174.00 Hall hire £2,160.00 C. Nardiello Concert £87.00 (after her fee of £80 deducted).</td></tr><tr><td>Expenditure</td><td>£33,445.20</td><td>£12,456.84</td></tr><tr><td><i>Notes :</i></td><td><i>Waived levy</i> £14,092.74 <i>NCT</i> £10,000.00 <i>Transferred to the 'Gift Aid' Account to replace funds drawn to pay GCF invoice.</i></td><td><i>Christian Aid (direct)</i> £437 <i>Zoom subs</i> £83.94</td></tr><tr><td>Bank balance</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gift Aid Donations Account at month end</td><td>£52,282.63</td><td>£52,928.96</td></tr><tr><td>Redwood Bank - designated & restricted funds</td><td>£15,156.65</td><td>£15,156.65</td></tr></table> 2. Payments to organists / musicians was raised at the last KS meeting. SF has discussed music provision with David Hamilton and Melanie Cottam; and in addition, received advice from Mary Macleod, Solicitor, C of S Law Dept.		May 2026	June 2026	Bank balance on 1 st of month	£45,483.54	£36,874.99	Bank balance at month end.	£36,864.99	£31,289.27	Income	£24,836.65	£6,881.12	<i>Notes:</i>	<i>Sing for Your Supper</i> £625 <i>Candlelit Concert</i> £450 <i>Waived levy</i> £14,092.74 <i>Ch of S</i> £3,744.72 <i>Open Days</i> £228.15	Council tax refund £717.10 Dividend HSBC £63.69 'Open' days £174.00 Hall hire £2,160.00 C. Nardiello Concert £87.00 (after her fee of £80 deducted).	Expenditure	£33,445.20	£12,456.84	<i>Notes :</i>	<i>Waived levy</i> £14,092.74 <i>NCT</i> £10,000.00 <i>Transferred to the 'Gift Aid' Account to replace funds drawn to pay GCF invoice.</i>	<i>Christian Aid (direct)</i> £437 <i>Zoom subs</i> £83.94	Bank balance			Gift Aid Donations Account at month end	£52,282.63	£52,928.96	Redwood Bank - designated & restricted funds	£15,156.65	£15,156.65
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	<u>2nd July 2026 Motion 3</u> : The KS was asked and approved these two proposals : • If payment is requested for playing at Sunday services, musicians must submit an invoice for fees and travel. • If claiming travel only, the expenses claim form is to be used and reimbursed at the new statutory rate of 55p per mile. 3. Open Days at the Duncansburgh This is working well with as many as 60 visitors in one day. By the end of June the church had been open 89 days. Thanks to all the volunteers who are making it happen! In addition to all the lovely conversations with visitors, nearly £500 have been donated. Bryan had a request from a visitor to play the piano, the other visitors enjoyed the playing as they do when John Cameron plays. 4. Review of Manse Provision Following from the last KS meeting, there are several items of correspondence added at Para. 9 to the Discussion Paper 'Review of Manse Provision'. <u>2nd July 2026 Motion 4</u> The KS approved each of these proposals from the Finance group as follows : • In principle, the sale of both manses and purchase of a new property to serve best the needs of a parish minister and his/her family, and to serve best the two parishes – Fort William Kilmallie linked with Kilmonivaig. • To seek approval from Presbytery CEI and the General Trustees for these sales. • To sell the Duncansburgh Manse (locally vested) as soon as practicable, once necessary approvals are received. 5. General Data Protection Following advice from the General Trustees, we are reviewing how personal information is handled within the congregation. The guidance on the CofS website is being used to support this work, and updated procedures will be shared soon. The Parish Administrator, using her initiative and 121 guidance, has produced a Data Protection form. <u>2nd July 2026 AP 2</u> : Each member of the KS requires to complete this form by email or on paper and return to Hannah. A Data Protection person is needed to monitor the GDPR policies and be a contact for enquiries. Joan MacKintosh volunteered to be this contact person and pointed out that this form needs to go out to the whole congregation e.g. for using WhatsApp etc.
Agenda Item 11 Property Issues	Mike MacGruer, the Property Convenor, reported on the following. <i>Corpach Scout Hut</i> : belongs to 121 who will put it on the market in October 2026, asking for offers over £50,000. <i>Both Manses</i> : weekly inspections are being carried out at both Manses. Some exterior painting may be needed at Kilmallie Manse. <i>Sale of Manses</i> : the IM reported that the Kilmonivaig KS, who pay towards these buildings, agreed to the sale of the manses at their meeting this afternoon. <i>Maintenance</i> : Hughie and the team have undertaken a number of small jobs and repairs. Sallie Parrish thanked them for the handrail up the stairs to the Upper Room.
Agenda Item 12 Correspondence	The correspondence from David Hamilton about the provision of, and for, musicians was covered in Item 10 on Finances. There was a discussion on the points about hall hires raised by Margaret Adam in an email. Fire doors cannot be locked, hirers should not be using the MacIntosh Hall fire doors as exits; and there is no storage provision for hall

	hirers. Sheana went through all the points with Hannah who should be informed if hirers are present outwith the times they have booked. Lin Ramsay has written to thank the KS for their kindness to her and the family following Alan's death; she passed on some thoughts about manse provision; and the family thank us but do not want an Elders' 'guard of honour' at Alan's funeral on 11th July.
Agenda Item 13 Safeguarding	Our Safeguarding records are kept in the Vestry. The IM encouraged us to pray and think about this post as we have collective responsibility if anything happens. Having the Parish Administrator, there would be less admin to do. The Church of Scotland is good at safeguarding, it's a way of caring for folk.
Agenda Item 14 Health & Safety	Sheana Fraser and Hughie Cameron addressed the following policy documents which have been updated by Hannah and circulated prior to this meeting : • Fire Evacuation Plans for both Church buildings. • Fire Safety Policy • Health and Safety Policy • Lone Working Policy • Working at Height Policy <u>2nd July 2026 Motion 5</u> : The KS approved these revised Policy documents. The First Aid equipment has been checked and updated. The Accident Book at Kilmallie is in the kitchen drawer (checked by SC in June 2026). All chemicals are to be stored correctly and are meant to be locked up. There is no lockable cupboard at Kilmallie. Norma explained there is specific cleaner at Kilmallie as the drains go into a septic tank.
Agenda Item 15 AOCB	➤ The next Newsletter will probably be produced in September. ➤ The Im pointed out that Holiday comes from Holy Day. He urged everyone to give the office bearers some holidays in July and into August. If something needs done, could you do it yourself ? Let's just worship together and encourage each other.
Agenda Item 16 Next Meeting	Our next meeting is due to be held on Thursday 17th September 2026, 7.00pm in the Upper Room. We closed by everyone sharing The Grace.
	Interim Moderator : Session Clerk : Date :