

**WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

Present: Councillor G.A. Cox (Chairman); Councillor A.C. Parker (Vice-Chairman); Councillors N. Moore and Mrs. M. Wright.

**419 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -**

These were received from Councillors Mrs. P. Drake and B.T. Gray.

**420 MINUTES -**

RESOLVED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**421 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -**

No declarations were received.

**422 PRESENTATION - INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO UPDATE - TILNEY FINANCIAL PLANNING LTD -**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. J. Ogilvy (Director - Investment Management) and Mr. R. Stone (Wealth Advisor) to the meeting.

Mr. Ogilvy tabled for the benefit of the Committee a valuation report relating to the Trust as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. This report in itself contained an Investment Report of the Trust's portfolio from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. He referred specifically to the portfolio value as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 which equated to £1,757,664 which had been detailed under four descriptors i.e. Asset allocation, geographic allocation of equities, capitalisation split of equities and currency split, details of which were set out in page 4 of the Valuation Report. Separately, he referred to the cumulative performance of the Trust's portfolio for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. Overall, the Trust's portfolio valuation had fallen by 0.6% over the above period and this was due to inflationary pressures.

His attention then turned to the various challenges facing the Equity Market namely Brexit, interest rates, citing of monetary pressures i.e. the withdrawal of Quantitative Easing, the rise in interest rates in the U.K. and the consequent impact on consumer spending. He also referred to the World Index which had grown, the USA economy which had been performing well over recent years set against short term corrections on the FTSE over the recent period. However, he indicated that the stock market was generally secure and global economy strength was sound.

In summing up he referred to the portfolio income valuation which was £44,187 and equated to a yield equivalent of 2.5%.

The Chairman enquired of the current performance of the Trust and whether this compared favourably to previous years. In response, Mr. Ogilvy indicated that the performance of the portfolio had been roughly the same when compared to previous years. The Chairman referred to the portfolio holding a higher percentage of equity. Mr. Ogilvy responded by indicating that he would normally expect a maximum of 50% of equity exposed, that said, based on the current requirements of the Trust only 40% was currently exposed. He also alluded to the fact that there was little point in investing in Gilts given current inflationary values.

At this juncture, Mr. Ogilvy sought instruction regarding the Committee's continuance in the future of its Ethical Investment Mandate. The Committee confirmed that they would not wish to see a move away from existing principles. In regards to income and the payment of the same, Mr. Ogilvy enquired if quarterly payments of income were to continue. The Committee confirmed that current arrangements were satisfactory.

At this juncture, Mr. Stone enquired of the Committee of their strategy regarding risk exposure. Following a brief discussion the Committee agreed that the risk score for the portfolio which was currently 3 out of 7 should remain unchanged.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Ogilvy and Stone for their attendance at the meeting.

Having regard to the above discussions it was

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Welsh Church Act Estate Valuation Report as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 and the Investment Report with regards to the Trust's portfolio for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 be noted.

(2) T H A T no change be made to the Committee's current portfolio investment arrangements and that an Ethical Investment Principle continue to be supported.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To note the performance of the Trust's portfolio to date.

(2) To provide instructions to Tilney Investment Management Ltd of the Committee's requirements.

#### 423 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2018/19 (MD) -

Consideration was given to the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A to the report.

A sum of £63,000 had been provided for grants in the Trust's Revenue Estimates for 2018/19. At the meeting in July 2018 it was recommended that an allocation of £32,196 was made for Tranche 1 applications for grant assistance in 2018/19. The Committee at that time further recommended that a further £16,199 be allocated as set out in Appendix A to the report which leave a remaining balance of £14,605 to be allocated during the remainder of 2018/19.

The Principal Accountant also proposed that a further grant deadline be set for 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 with consequent recommendations to be brought to the Committee in January 2019.

At the meeting of the Committee in January 2018 the Committee agreed at that time to progress the recommended options for the lane to the rear of Church Road, Cadoxton at an estimated cost of £30,000. Further consideration was being given by officers to how to best to deliver the preferred scheme to implementation however, the funding implications were reflected in the financial estimate at Appendix C to the report. Subject to the scheme's implementation and related Committee approval the drawdown of £30,00 from reserves would leave an estimated reserve balance of £90,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the applications for financial assistance as detailed below be approved.

Name of Organisation	Specific Purpose for Which Grant Requested	Grant Approved
<b>Ebenezer Church</b> - Grangetown, Cardiff. (Recommended by Cardiff Council).	<b>Improvement and Modernisation of the Church's interior</b> - The project involves replacing the wooden front doors and porch of the church with glass doors and a glass lobby. The installation of a new disabled access toilet, repairs to the winding mechanism of the three side windows. Improvements to the basement entrance and access stairwell and installation of a new fire door are also planned.	£5,000.00
<b>All Afloat</b> - Plas Menai Sports Centre, Caernarfon (Runs projects in Colwyn Bay, Cardiff, Swansea and	<b>Sailing for Cardiff Disadvantaged Groups</b> - Following on from a successful pilot scheme	£5,000.00

<p>Pembrokeshire). Mission of organisation to transform lives through the power of boating. (Recommended by Cardiff Council).</p>	<p>over the summer for about 50 children. The project aims to offer approximately 100 taster sessions pairing down to about 50 summer long participants working in partnership with the Cardiff sailing centre. The group's experience is that the scheme can help to improve behaviour, improve confidence and develop teamworking skills.</p>	
<p><b>St Peters Church - Parish of St Andrews Major</b></p>	<p><b>Renewal of Lighting at St Peter's, Dinas Powys</b> - The PCC are concerned that the poor levels of lighting create a health and safety risk at the open door events particularly in the Autumn and Winter months. This can also make holding fundraising events difficult during this period. Weekly services have been affected due to lighting issues and some members of the congregation find it difficult to read service sheets. The scheme will replace all the existing halogen flood lights with 50w LED lights.</p>	<p>£3,225.00</p>
<p><b>Tenovus Cancer Care - Llanishen, Cardiff</b> (Recommended by Cardiff) Mission of the organisation is to bring practical advice, emotional support and treatment to the heart of the community. Helping people with cancer and</p>	<p><b>Renewal of equipment for the three Sing with Us choirs in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan</b> - Tenovus Cancer Care established the Sing With Us choir programme in 2010 to</p>	<p>£2,974.36</p>

<p>their loved ones cope and carrying out vital research.</p>	<p>explore the physical and mental benefit of choir singing for those affected by cancer. The organisation now has 16 choirs throughout Wales including 2 in Cardiff and 1 in Barry. Rehearsals are held at All Saints Church Rhiwbina (107 choristers), St Albans Church, Splott (41 choristers) and Cadoxton Methodist Church, Barry (103 choristers). Request for funding for 2 new sets of equipment one to be funded at 100% of cost to be shared between the two Cardiff choirs and a second to be funded at 50% of cost to be utilised in Barry. Equipment required, portable PA system, microphone, headmic set, band vocal set, microphone stand, trolley and ipad.</p>	
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(2) T H A T an additional tranche of grant applications be brought in 2018/19 following the additional 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 deadline be agreed.

Reasons for decisions

(1&2) In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.