

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE..... [Plains Reimagining Proposal to Parish Council](#) [March 2024](#)

Parish Council realise the importance of sharing information with the wider parish in order for prayerful and wise decisions to be made about our future. Over the next few weeks leading up to a parish-wide

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday 5th May, 10.30 am at St John's Methven, we will be expanding on some key phrases we used in our initial Bulletin notice last week.

One of the reasons we have decided to “agree to support the process of determining the minds of the wider

congregation to closing Plains Presbyterian Parish in order for new growth possibilities to emerge” is because of the ‘too many building issues’ to be dealt with by a small group of people with limited expertise let alone the finances to do so!

So – what are these building issues? In May 2023 we received a Plains Presbyterian Parish Building

Strengthening and Compliance Report from RangzenPro. This set out very clearly the ‘too many building issues’ that need attention. Not only do we need to strengthen buildings to the required level, to do so means most of the buildings we currently occupy need major maintenance to meet Ashburton District Council consent processes. (and Consents are required before any strengthening work can be started).

A summary of costs are:

- Mayfield Church - \$585,000
- Methven Hall - \$807,000
- Rakaia Church and Hall - \$422,000 (all exclusive of GST).

In total, to bring our current buildings up to code requires an investment of \$1,814,000.00 – and this is assuming costs have not increased since May 2023.

Extra to this is the fact we also own two manses – Mayfield and Methven. Both properties require updating and maintenance work, inside and out, to ensure we are good landlords.

These are the facts that can't be ignored – we are in some way asset rich, but cash poor - and our assets are deteriorating. As well, many of these buildings are being infrequently used, some as little as once every two months.

We need to keep remembering – the Church is not the buildings; it is the people. If you have questions you want answers to, please take the opportunity to attend one of the meetings we are holding during April in all three regions:

- Mayfield – 18th April
- Methven – 21st April.
- Rakaia – 23rd April

Venue and times will be advertised in the Bulletins leading up to these dates.