

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

Saturday 9th May 2020

Start time 10.00am using video/telephone link

Duty Elder: Eleanor Fairclough

Local Meeting Representatives: Lesley Reynolds (Aberdeen), Anthea Mason (Aberdeen), Eleanor Fairclough (Inverness), Derek MacLean (Orkney).

Meeting included 7 from Aberdeen and 7 from Inverness, 3 from Forres, 1 from Lochaber & Lorne, 1 from Westray, 2 from Orkney and 4 Attenders.

Prevented: Sandy McEwen, Mary Dower, Jessie Clerk, Tracey Coutts,

Minutes

Spiritual Support

21/20 Oriole Hall presented a concern for those facing illness or distress of any kind at this time, who might wish to be upheld in prayer.

This is an open invitation to to all Friends in North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting (AM) who would like AM to specifically uphold them and/or loved ones in prayerful support.

We suggest that this invitation is sent out to all members and attenders of AM.

Anyone who wishes to be upheld in this way in the first instance would contact an E/O or clerk of their LM, indicating whether they wish to be upheld by their own meeting or by the wider AM. The E/O, clerk who has been contacted would then forward the name according to their wishes. In the case of the wider AM, names would be given to Piers as AM Clerk, Derek MacLean (E/O) or Oriole Hall as E/O convenor.

These names will be read out at AM Meeting for Worship the following Sunday if the person requesting support so wishes.

Membership:

22/20 We record the death of our Friend Margaret Brown (nee Michie) who died on October 1st 2019 at her home in Westray. Her body was cremated on October 14th at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh. She was a member of North of Scotland Area Quaker Meeting and formerly of York Area Meeting. The clerk is liaising with Lydia Harris regarding a testimony to Margaret that can be published in the Northern Quaker.

23/20 We record the death of our Friend John Hebborn of Lochaber Meeting on 26/02/2020. A Quaker funeral was held at Inverness Crematorium on 10/03/2020. John was one of the founding members of the Loachaber & Lorne Meeting more than 20 years ago. The clerk and David James will liaise with Janet & Geoff Fairburn with regards a testimony to John to be published in the Northern Quaker.

24/20 Oriole Hall (Inverness) will co-ordinate the writing of a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of John Melling.

25/20 Phyllida Sayles (Inverness) read a report from her and Dave McRobie's (Nairn) visit with Ailish Carroll-Brentnall. We warmly welcome Ailish into membership and ask Peter Heald to liaise with Ailish regarding a book to present to Ailish.

26/20 The clerk has received an application for membership from Valerie Saunders (Inverness / Dingwall). The clerk and Oriole Hall will liaise with regards suitable visitors and a report on that visit will be brought to AM when the time is right.

Matters from Trustees:

27/20 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aberdeen Meeting: The MoU as signed by Trustees and Aberdeen LM clerks and dated 20th April 2020 is accepted by AM. We note that this needs to be read in conjunction with the AM Governing Document and associated Terms of Reference for Trustees.

We received the minute from Trustees dated 03/02/2020 and minutes from 11/04/2020 and 05/05/2020 when clerks and AM Trustees met to review progress with the MoU.

We ask Trustees and Aberdeen LM to continue to work constructively together and report regularly to AM.

Nominations:

28/20 We ask AM Nominations and Elders/Overseers and Local Meeting Clerks to continue their search for Trustees, in particular women who can join the Board of Trustees and an assistant clerk who can provide a full triennium of support to trustees. We also ask the Clerk, Clerk to Trustees and Clerk to Nominations to set up an urgent meeting with General Meeting Clerk and Clerk of GM Trustees to discuss options for appointing Trustees. The clerk will circulate the current Trustee job description to AM Friends with this minute, noting that it would be useful to revise this document.

29/20 We ask Nominations to develop proposed alternative approaches, such as having alternates or volunteer assistant Friends to support role holders at meetings, and to bring these to AM.

30/20 If AM is unable to recruit the minimum number of 5 AM trustees to serve from 1st January 2021, David James as clerk of AM trustees shall notify OSCR and Meeting for Sufferings, in good time, that NSAQM can no longer fulfil its legal obligations.

Meeting closed with silence shortly after 12pm.

Piers Voysey
Clerk

Phyllida Sayles
Assistant Clerk