

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND
Minutes of the meeting of trustees held 3.11.2016

Present: Catherine Brown, Robin Davis (clerk), Michael Hutchinson, Derek McLean, Jacqueline Noltingk, John Phillips.
Prevented: none.

16/18 Welcome

We have met in worship and welcomed Catherine Brown to her first meeting as a trustee.

16/19 Trustee appointments - paper A

We have noted the current membership and thanked those about to come to the end of their term of service.

16/20 Advocacy project review - papers B and C

We have received the document "End of project review 2016-2017" and the clerk's introductory paper, and accept the proposed timetable.

The project is beginning to show the results of the work initiated through the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group and the Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer. We note the petition to parliament on militarisation in Scottish schools (and the huge amount of work behind the scenes this involved) and the recent symposium on tax justice, both dependent on cooperation with other bodies, and both excellent examples of outreach. The sending of white poppies to MSPs has also been important.

As trustees we are especially concerned about how the project has been managed. Initial problems occurred arising from the member of staff working in Edinburgh and being managed from London, but these have now been solved. One outcome was the production of guidelines for "signing off" statements being put out officially on behalf of Friends. We have as a General Meeting been empowered to act in ways we would have found very difficult without staff help. One of the principal issues in maintaining and developing relationships between staff and Scottish Friends has been the changing memberships of the two main committees - General Meeting Trustees and the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group - so we have welcomed, and need, a regular review procedure for projects of this kind.

The project is still developing, its profile rising, and the general public's awareness of Quakers is increasing. One of the issues identified by us today has been the confusing connections seen in the relationships of General Meeting and the Area Meetings, with the role of Area Meeting representatives on the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group not properly understood and developed. We are positive about the project, and have learnt to appreciate both what can be achieved with staff and the limitations of part-time working.

Are Scots more politically mature than the English and Welsh? Certainly we have felt an increased political awareness as a result of two referenda in the space of three years. We find it easier to communicate with our political representatives given the size of our population.

What we are less sure of is the awareness among Scottish Friends in Local Meetings of the Parliamentary Engagement Officer's work. Are they taking in all the communications

and pieces of information we circulate? The project is stimulating us to work hard at all the ways by which we communicate among ourselves.

Finance has been a matter of concern. Have contributions to Yearly Meeting gone down as a result of General Meeting requesting increased quotas from the Area Meetings? If the review judges the pilot to have been good value for money, how should it be continued? We recommend that the reviewers concentrate on the project itself and leave it to the trustees of Yearly Meeting and of General Meeting for Scotland to discern the right way of funding in the future. This discernment should cover all aspects of the funding of General Meeting activity carried out on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to send this minute to the reviewers, to Jane Dawson, and to Elizabeth Allen

16/21 The review process

We have received the list of names the reviewers wish to see and the draft timetable for visits and conversations. We ask the clerk, in discussion with Douglas Rennie and Beryl Milner (the reviewers), to let trustees know when they wish to talk with us, and the arrangements for a conference by telephone.

ACTION: Clerk

16/22 Parliamentary Liaison Function Group (PLFG)

We have received the minutes of the meeting of the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group (PLFG) held 11.10.2016. We wish to thank the PLFG and Mairi Campbell-Jack, Parliamentary Engagement Officer, for all the work they are doing on our behalf, and ask the Clerk to send this minute to them. We are particularly grateful to Elizabeth Allen for being convener at this time, and for all the work she has done.

ACTION: Clerk

16/23 Budget for 2017, draft - paper D

John Phillips, Treasurer, has prepared a draft budget for 2017 which assumes the same overall pattern of income and expenditure as for 2016, with the continuance of the increased quota on Area Meetings to support the employment of the Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer.

We approve this draft, including the proposal to give a once-off grant of extra money for Scottish Churches Housing Action, and the ending of support for the China Group; we ask John to introduce the budget at the General Meeting to be held 12.11.2016.

ACTION: John Phillips

16/24 The Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer - financing the post - paper E

We thank our Treasurer for his paper outlining the views of Area Meeting treasurers on their ability to continue financing the post of Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer beyond 2017. We note the position.

16/25 Britain Yearly Meeting annual grant for the work of the General Meeting - paper F

We thank our Treasurer for letting us have a copy of the paper he prepared in September for the Finance department of Friends House. We note this situation. [See also minute 16/20 above]

16/26 Donations and affiliations - paper G

Following General Meeting minute 16/10 (March 2016), and our minute 16/13 we have received a revised paper from the Treasurer on guidelines the General Meeting (GM) should adopt when considering donations and affiliations. We approve these for use by GM from now on. **[GOLD minute]**

16/27 Banking arrangements: change of signatories

[See the agreed minute at the end of this set of minutes.]

16/28 Independent examiner

We appoint Paul Kenny to examine the accounts for 2016.

ACTION: John Phillips to send a copy of this minute to Paul Kenny

16/29 Children and Young Persons Function Group - paper H

We have received this paper, which is to be submitted to the General Meeting to be held later this month, advocating the laying down of the Children and Young Persons Function Group. We note the paper.

16/30 Date of next meeting

We agree to meet as required with the advocacy project reviewers, in person or by telephone. We suggest Thursday February 9th for the next ordinary meeting, and ask Martin Burnell, incoming clerk to trustees, to confirm this; place to be arranged.

ACTION: Clerk and Martin Burnell

16/31 Thanks for service

We thank Robin Davis and John Phillips for their service as clerk and treasurer respectively.

Robin Davis, Clerk

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): General Meeting for Scotland

*Minute adopted by the trustees of General Meeting for Scotland
on 3rd November 2016 (minute 16/27)*

Banking arrangements: change of signatories

We authorise our treasurer John Phillips to change the signatories on our Co-operative Bank Community Directplus account, to take effect early in 2017. The new signatories, with a mandate that any one may sign cheques, should be as follows:

Nigel Dower (treasurer from 1st January 2017, new signatory);

Duncan Wallace (assistant treasurer, existing signatory);

Martin Burnell (clerk to GM trustees from 1st January 2017, new signatory).

The following will no longer continue as signatories:

John Phillips (current treasurer);
Robin Davis (current clerk to GM trustees).

We also authorise the treasurer to apply to the bank for on-line banking facilities in respect of this account.

With regard to General Meeting's Business and Charity Deposit account with Triodos Bank (with a 33-day notice period), we authorise John Phillips to change the signatories as above. The mandate should require any two signatories for any transaction.

This minute has been correctly transcribed.

Robin Davis

John Phillips

(Clerk to Trustees)

(Treasurer to General Meeting)

Date:

Date: