

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting Monday 21st June

Attending: 19, representing Lochaber & Lorn, Inverness, Westray, Orkney, Aberdeen, Forres

Prevented: Chris MacGregor,

Minutes

Membership to the Religious Society of Friends

18/21: Chris MacGregor & William Purser's report from their (online) visit with Fabien Camus was read out by William. Other Friends also spoke warmly of Fabien's contribution to the spiritual life of Inverness Meeting and to their spiritual lives.

We welcome Fabien into Membership.

We ask Peter Heald to enquire of Fabien regarding a suitable book to mark the occasion.

We ask Clunie Conochie to welcome Fabien into the Meeting at their next local meeting in Inverness, or Dingwall

19/21: Oriole Hall read from her and Nigel Dower's report on their (online) visit with Sylvia Thomson. Living in Achiltibuie has meant that it has been difficult for Sylvia to connect to a local Meeting but she has been able to connect with us well while Meetings have been online and her application to membership has been endorsed by Sibford Meeting where she was an active part of the Meeting.

We welcome(d) Sylvia into membership (Sylvia being present at the Meeting – Clerk's note)

We ask Peter Heald to speak with her regarding a suitable book to mark the occasion.

20/21: We receive the account on the life of Margaret Brown (29/08/1923 – 01/10/2019) written by Lydia Harris.

We ask Sandy to add a 'footnote' on the impact that Margaret made on their meeting in Westray. The clerk will contact Lydia to suggest that this now goes to York Area Meeting for them to consider preparing a testimony to Margaret's life and to ask that we can send the account to the Northern Quaker for publication.

21/21: We have received the trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 which was approved by trustees on 24.5.21.

Noting that Oriole Hall should have been included as a Trustee serving during 2020. Anthony will rectify this in the 2021 report.

The report and the accounts reflect the effect of the pandemic on our activities and finances during the year showing a reduction in contributions compared with 2019 of £4,754.

This is largely as a result of the lack of local collections but also as a result of the changing circumstances of some Friends.

However there has been a corresponding reduction in expenditure on rents for the hire of premises for Meetings which have not taken place and as a result of travel being restricted.

Consequently we have ended the year with a surplus of £21,596.

We accept the report and accounts and thank those involved in their compilation, including Heather Hartman and AJB Scholes.

Anthony also explained that with the limitations of time for trustees the account remains with Bank of Scotland rather than moving to a more ethical bank.

22/21: General Meeting for Scotland has persuaded Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) that the Parliamentary Engagement Officer post should become permanent and BYM has confirmed that it will be absorbed into general expenditure from the end of December 2021.

However there is a condition to this agreement and that is that the 4 area meetings in Scotland, together with General Meeting agree to underwrite a minimum contribution of £10,000 per annum for the next three years. Area Meetings have contributed, on a pro-rotta basis based on the membership numbers on the tabular statement, £6,000 per annum for the post to date. The balance has come from a legacy left to General Meeting. Our trustees have said we can meet a contribution of up to £2,500 per year for the next three years, this is largely because we have the funds in hand. The post will carry on beyond that and we need to bare in mind that we will need to continue to support the post into the future.

We hope that we can rise to the challenge for funding what is required in the future to ensure the security of employment for the PEO and, maintain our contribution to good works at the national level.

23/21: The matter of raising funds from our Meetings needs to be addressed and we heard ideas from Anthony, and how Inverness Meeting are seeking to address this. We ask Local Meetings to feed back to AM on how they feel contributions can be explained to members and attenders so that AM and BYM can better explain how contributions will be raised and how they are spent.

24/21: Kingswells Burial Ground. Steve Crawford, Director of Planning (HFM) is consolidating various development frameworks in relation to the Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells, Aberdeen. David James, as clerk of Trustees will be the contact point for further communications with HFM. (Halliday Fraser Munro, chartered architects & planning consultants.)

Piers Voysey

Clerk

21/06/2021