

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

Pluscarden Village Hall – 30 & 31st August 2025

Area Meeting convened for business at 9.15am on the Saturday and 9.30am on the Sunday. Friends from Inverness, Nairn, Forres and Aberdeen were present.

Minutes

Minutes made between Meetings:

We receive the following minutes made between meetings by the AM planning group:
28/25 We agree to Area Meeting paying travel expenses for Emily Provence to travel to Shetland to speak with Shetland Friends. This is in response to a request from Brian Ashley (Clerk, Shetland Meeting).

29/25 We ask our Treasurer to pay a donation of £900 to Pluscarden Abbey as a contribution to the costs of using their facilities.

Minutes of record:

30/25 We record our thanks to Scottish Canals for waving additional charges for the use of the Tree House for Area Meeting on 7th May 2025.

31/25 In response to our minute 22/25 approving a donation to Quaker linked schools in the Middle East, we have received the following thanks from Oliver Muller, Executive Secretary for the Quaker International Educational Trust:

“Dear Friends of North Scotland Area Meeting,
Thank you very much indeed for your generous donation last month for both Ramallah and Brummana schools. We would normally send you a letter signed by our chair but I'm not sure what postal address this would go to. I hope sending an email doesn't look any less appreciative.”

If Friends want more information about the schools please visit: <https://quietcharity.org.uk/> and: <https://www.rfs.edu.ps/en>

Quakers in Scotland:

In order to prepare ourselves for a transition to Quakers in Scotland we are asked to keep Meeting for Sufferings (Britain Yearly Meeting) informed of our direction of travel:

32/25 We ask Meeting for Sufferings to approve the proposed laying down of North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting and for members (and attenders) to become part of Quakers in Scotland.

For information NSAQM current responsibilities as set out in *Quaker Faith & Practice* 4.01 to 4.11 will become responsibilities of Quakers in Scotland.

We expect the decision to lay down North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting to be made at our Area Meeting on 25th October 2025.

The AM Clerk will send this minute on to MfS promptly after this Meeting.

With reference to our minute 22/25 from May this year, which reads:

“We encourage our trustees to continue working towards enabling our transition from North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting to Quakers in Scotland..”

It may still be helpful to be specific about what we are asking them to do as the opportunity arises and so that Friends are kept up-to-date with the stages and process.

For this reason the following minute is recorded:

33/25 We ask trustees to write to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) asking them to approve the laying down of the charity (North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting).

34/25 We ask any Local Meetings with separate bank accounts to close these accounts, transferring the funds to North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting. Itemised account lines will be kept by the book keeper so that these funds are kept for these Local Meetings.

Meetings with property, e.g. Aberdeen might hold on to their bank account in order to facilitate maintenance payments. We ask that other Local Meeting bank accounts are closed by the end of October this year.

35/25 Kathleen Quinn informed us that her donation to North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting through Charitable Giving has been refused as North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting is no longer a recognised charity, or that the charities account has been closed. The Clerk and Treasurer will make enquiries to understand why this has happened in advance of actually laying down NSAQM.

Membership:

36/25 The Clerk has read out the report prepared by Michael Ashman (Lochaber & Lorn) and Louise McKeown (Mull) on their visit to Sue Greenwood (Lochaber & Lorn) on 21st July 2025 in Appin.

The report was appreciated by Friends and there is agreement that we welcome Sue into membership of the Religious Society of Friends.

The Clerk will write to Sue and ask if Louise and Michael can suggest a welcoming gift to send to Sue.

37/25 We receive Lesley Reynold's resignation of membership to the Society of Friends and the Clerk will notify BYM of this resignation. We thank Lesley for her service and contribution to Aberdeen Meeting and North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting.

38/25 We have heard read the testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Roger Quinn, prepared by Inverness Friends. We welcome this testimony and, acknowledging Roger's footprints in Quaker circles across the British Isles, recommend it to General Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting.

39/25 Legacy from Penny Selbie

We suggest that the legacy left to North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting by our Friend Penny Selbie respects her gift to North Scotland, that it is retained for use by North

Scotland Friends in order to sustain fellowship, education & ministry during the period of transition into Quakers in Scotland, and to enable Friends from the wider Religious Society of Friends to share with us in North Scotland. For example it might be used to ensure that the cost of attending regional gatherings is affordable for everyone, and to enable Friends to travel to North Scotland Quaker events, or for travel between Local Meetings to support and share with each other, even perhaps arranging events in far-flung corners of the region such as Shetland.

Nominations

40/25 Clive Potter (Aberdeen) and Piers Voysey (Forres) hope to be at General Meeting for Scotland on the 20th September in Perth. Clive and Piers are willing to serve as reporters for the Friend and Scottish Friend.

41/25 Quaker life regional events 2025

We appoint Lynden Easterbrook as a representative of North Scotland to join the Quaker Life regional event online in November. Noting that these events are important consultation events for Quaker Life, if other names come forward, especially from young Friends and families we hope that they will be supported in attending one of the events.

Date of next Meeting

We hope to meet again on Saturday 25th October 2025 in Aberdeen

Piers Voysey
Clerk

John Hitchen
Assistant Clerk