

Meeting of Quakers in Scotland Foundation Trustees

Held online, 17th December 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Elizabeth Allen, Brian Ashley, Adwoa Burnley (acting convenor), Chris Holmes, David Somervell and in attendance Lesley Richards (Convenor QiSCG)

We started our meeting with a period of Worship.

We agreed the agenda for the meeting.

1. Introductions

This was the first meeting of the trustee body and each of us in turn spent time introducing ourselves and sharing our hopes and fears for Quakers in Scotland. (QiS)

2. Appointment of clerk to QiS trustees and treasurer of QiS

We were initially unable to find a Friend to serve as clerk, and deferred the decision until later in the meeting. Towards the end of the meeting, we agreed to appoint Adwoa Burnley and Elizabeth Allen as co-clerks to QiS trustees.

Chris Holmes agreed to consider serving as treasurer, if he can identify one or more experienced Quaker treasurers to help him learn how to carry out this role and support him while he does it. Two Friends were suggested. We also thought that working with the current team of AM/ GM treasurers would be good.

3. Dates for the next meetings

We agreed to meet by Zoom on the following dates:

Saturday 4 January, 7.30 pm

Wednesday 5 February, 7 pm

Wednesday 5 March, 7 pm

4. Report from Lesley Richards, Convenor of Quakers in Scotland Coordinating Group (QiSCG)

For our information, we received 3 papers in advance: "Where have we got to? – Report from Lesley Richards, convener QiSCG"; "Summary of how Option 4 might work"; "Draft Possible Transition Arrangements for Membership".

Referring to papers, Lesley brought us up to date with the work that has been done so far on possible changes to the structures of Quakers in Scotland. This included a summary of QiSCG's considerations, contributions from the Community Subgroup, the Property Subgroup and the Meeting for AM Treasurers. She also talked us through possible transition arrangements for moving to Quakers in Scotland.

5. Next steps

We agreed that our first priority was to complete and submit the OSCR application form to register Quakers in Scotland as a Charitable Incorporated Body. Brian Ashley has already sent up a table of the questions to be answered. We noted that similar questions might have been answered in the application form for the existing Quaker charities in Scotland, and it would be helpful where applicable to draw on this and similar work already done. With this in mind, Brian agreed to complete the form, working with Lesley Richards, and with Martin Burnell and Kate Gulliver, in they are willing. The draft version of the completed form will be checked before the application is submitted. David Somervell has offered to help with this.

We also agreed that it would be useful to clarify and list the tasks of the various bodies involved in the process to exploring possible changes for Quakers in Scotland and taking these forward, including QiS trustees, QiSCG and subgroups, and General Meeting for Scotland. Elizabeth Allen has agreed to work on this with Lesley Richards.

We have identified the following tasks for early action:

- Find out more about Friends Trust Ltd., to inform our consideration of whether or not they might be of use to Quakers in Scotland.
- Identify which solicitors we might use, when required.
- Contact AM and GM treasurers to explore how we might work with them (Clerks to do)

As there was no further business to conduct, we ended our meeting with worship.