

# GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND TRUSTEES

## Minutes of the meeting held 20th February 2018 in Glasgow

**Present:** Catherine Brown, Martin Burnell (Clerk), Nigel Dower, Derek McLean.

**Prevented:** Michael Hutchinson, Jacqueline Noltingk

### 1. Welcome

We welcome Trustees to our re-arranged meeting in Glasgow.

### 2. Annual report and accounts

#### 2.1 Accepting the annual report and accounts

Our Treasurer, Nigel Dower, has presented the draft annual report and accounts for 2017. We note that these have been examined and certified by Paul Kenny. We accept the report, subject to minor amendments, and the accounts. We thank Nigel for his work on the accounts and for his stewardship of our finances.

#### 2.2 Authorisation to sign

We authorise our Clerk on behalf of trustees to sign the annual report and accounts once the amendments have been incorporated.

#### 2.3 Report to General Meeting

We ask Nigel Dower to present this annual report and accounts at the General Meeting to be held on 10th March 2018.

### 3. Use of grants

Further to minute 2 of our meeting on 25th October, 2017, we note that our Treasurer has updated the previous report he prepared on use of the grant from BYM to cover the whole of 2017, and has sent this to Friends House.

We have discussed the use we make of the grant of £1400 from the Camfield Trust. This trust was established by Francis Camfield in 1706 "for the benefit of poor Friends (Quakers)". Its official aims are: "supporting individual Quakers in need witnessing to Christian and Quaker testimonies". Our grant accounts for approximately 8% of total spending by the Trust.

We will await any comments from the Trust, but if the grant continues, we will publicise the possibility of Friends claiming some of the cost of attending General Meeting if they need such financial assistance, including those who live remotely and would incur excessive costs in attending.

#### **4. Report of Workshop run by New Philanthropy Capital.**

Martin Burnell and Jacqueline Noltingk attended this workshop held in Glasgow on 23rd January 2018 on behalf of GM Trustees. Also in attendance were eight members of the GM Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, the Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer and Jane Dawson and Jess Metheringham from Friends House.

New Philanthropy Capital had been asked by Jane Dawson to help develop a methodology for assessing the success of the Parliamentary Engagement project. Martin and Jacqueline felt that the approach being suggested was more suited to a charity with narrow and defined objectives than to the varying programme of work agreed annually for the Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer. While some of the principles were sound, it was not clear how the suggested approach could be put into practice in a meaningful way.

We note that the PEWG has received further papers from the Consultants and has prepared a detailed response and alternative assessment approach. We will await the response to this from Friends House, but in the meantime will circulate the documents to all Trustees

#### **5. Broader Memorandum of Understanding with BYM.**

Martin Burnell has reported that he attended the annual meeting held between the Clerks of GM for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales and Meeting for Sufferings held at the time of last GM in Elgin. The Recording Clerk and Neil Jarvis from Friends House were also present.

Neil Jarvis introduced a general outline for a Broader MoU and there was some discussion of the principles involved. Paul and Neil had offered to produce some notes of what was discussed, but we have not yet seen these. We agree to return to this after we have heard further from Friends House.

#### **6. New Data Protection Regulation**

The new General Data Protection Regulation will come into effect on 25th May 2018. While the UK continues in membership of the EU the law automatically applies here and the UK Government has announced its intention to incorporate the principles of the Regulation into British law so it will continue to apply after Brexit.

SESAM has undertaken some preparatory work including a draft data consent form based on the BYM model. We thank SESAM for this work, but feel that we need to do further work on the documentation and procedures as GM Trustees through email exchanges with a view to issuing model documentation and procedures to AM Trustees before May. We need to consider all personal information, whether recorded in committee minutes, treasurers' records or elsewhere.

## **7. Minute from North Scotland AM.**

North Scotland sent the following minute to GM held on 18th November 2017:

“We should like general meeting for Scotland and Meeting for Sufferings to consider the possibility of having a Trust body for the whole of Scotland. This would release many Friends who are currently trustees, for other service. We are reminded that AM trustees do have a role in upholding the life of the meeting. Let’s hang on to what we can do and hold our vision.”

GM has asked Trustees together with NSAM trustees to meet together to see how best to move forward with this consideration. GM asks that we report back to GM when we are ready.

We see a number of difficulties in this suggestion, including the willingness of other AMs to participate in such an arrangement. Our Clerk will contact the Clerk of NSAM Trustees for a preliminary discussion prior to arranging any wider meeting or telephone conference.

## **8. GM Working Groups**

We have received the minutes of the Parliamentary Liaison Working Group held on 3rd February, 2018

## **9. Dates of meetings 2018**

Tuesday 15th May and Tuesday 23rd October, both in Edinburgh.

Martin Burnell  
Clerk.