

**Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business,
Bellfield, 22 May 2022**

MINUTES

1. Attendance, worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting, use of Zoom to share draft minutes and to enable Friends to use the chat function

Friends attending: Robin Liebmann, Fiona Paterson, Cathy Holman, Lynn Mayer, Lesley Reid, Marian Willoner, Jen Shepherd, Alastair Cameron, Mary Jane Elton, Mark Ballard

Prevented: Chris Booth, Chris Holman, Harsingar Chisholm, Heather Stacey

Opening reading: In the opening silence, Lynn Mayer read Advices and Queries No. 33: “Are you alert to practices here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs? Bear witness to the humanity of all people, including those who break society’s conventions or its laws. Try to discern new growing points in social and economic life. Seek to understand the causes of injustice, social unrest and fear. Are you working to bring about a just and compassionate society which allows everyone to develop their capacities and fosters the desire to serve?”

Minutes of our meeting on Sunday, 20 February 2022, have been circulated, signed and placed in the minutes book.

Fiona Paterson, who is drafting the minutes, has explained that she will log into the meeting’s Zoom account and share her screen when she has written a draft minute so that Friends can see it in writing. Logging into Zoom will also allow Friends to minister using the chat function if they wish.

2. Matters arising

a. Wiston Weekend, 9-11 September 2022

Area Meeting on 26 March 2022 approved our proposal for the Wiston Weekend to be run by Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting under the auspices of South East Scotland Area Meeting. The booking forms have already been sent out and Friends are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

b. Becoming Friends: update on arrangements for a house group for people who want to explore Quakerism in greater depth

Alastair Cameron is still prepared to work on this and is seeking a partner.

3. Membership matters

Our Friends Carolyn Urquhart and Jacob Frankau were welcomed into membership at Area Meeting on 26 March 2022. We extend our warmest welcome to them.

We note that two further applications for membership have been made, from Ross Campbell and Jane Ditchfield.

Friends may be interested to know that our next Conversation with Friends will be held on 26 June and will be on the topic of “What membership of Quakers means to me”. It will be facilitated by Cathy Holman and Fiona Paterson.

4. **Representatives for Area Meeting in Kelso on Saturday 25 June (in person) and General Meeting on Saturday, 11 June (Glasgow Meeting House, blended)**

We appoint Lynn Mayer to represent us at Area Meeting. We also understand that Adam Ballard will be going to talk about Junior Yearly Meeting. We will continue to look for someone to represent us at Glasgow Meeting House. We ask them to provide a very short report for notices.

5. **Financial update**

We thank our treasurer, Chris Holman, for the spreadsheet and notes. We are happy to hear that the current situation is fine, although we understand the need for caution going forward.

We still have a Zoom subscription, but we will review this before it runs out in March 2023.

We recognise that individuals may need financial support to attend Wiston. They should get in touch with an elder or overseer, who will raise this with Area Meeting.

In 2019, we set aside money for young people to be able to visit other local meetings. We wish to do so again. The clerks will consult the treasurer about a suitable sum to be set aside for this purpose, with a proposal to come to the next business meeting and a decision to be taken by the co-clerks and treasurer should any young people wish to travel before our next local meeting. We encourage the young people to use their bus passes whenever practical.

6. **Charitable causes**

At our business meeting in February, we decided to choose one or two causes to support over a prolonged period so that we could build a closer relationship with it/them and provide other forms of support rather than just financial assistance. The three proposed causes are Fàilte Edinburgh, Jock Tamson's Gairden, and Wiston Lodge.

We have heard about the three causes and wish to support and build a relationship with all three. This support will be for an initial period of two years, with a review after 12 months, to see how the relationship is evolving. We will invite representatives of the charities (who could be members of this meeting) to tell our meeting about their work, for example, through talks, visits, displays, or being involved with discussions with the young people and "Conversations with Friends" on fourth Sundays. We acknowledge that the needs of the charities may change, and that therefore the proportion of the funding raised given to each may change over the year.

7. **Use of the word "overseer"**

We will postpone the discussion of this item until our next business meeting.

8. **Conversations with Friends and Meetings for Eating**

We ask elders, overseers and clerks to continue to review Conversations with Friends.

We are mindful of the work involved in holding shared lunches in people's homes. People may be put off attending as they know they cannot reciprocate. We ask elders, clerks and overseers to look at the possibility of holding shared lunches at Bellfield, and to look at ways in which we can encourage smaller groups to meet socially.

9. **Arrangements for our next meeting**

Our next meeting for worship for business will be held on 28 August, in person, at Bellfield. We ask Robin Liebmann and Fiona Paterson to clerk. We ask our clerks to ensure that the chairs and the clerking table are placed in a circle.

Signed:

Robin Liebmann, Co-clerk

Fiona Paterson, Co-clerk

