

**Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting  
of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Meeting for Worship with attention to business.**

Bellfield Celebration Hall, 08 June 2025 12:45 – 14:15

**MINUTES**

**2025/06/01 Attendance worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting**

In the opening silence Tessa read QFP 23.10.

Robin Liebmann reminded us of the Quaker business method.

**2025/06/02 Attendance worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting**

Friends attending: Robin Liebmann (co-clerk), Sarah Martin (co-clerk), Marian Willoner (co-clerk), Ian Edwards (elder), Tessa Thomas-Pyne, Cathy Holman, Wade Robertson, Duncan Wallace, Alastair Cameron, Chris Holman, Fabien Camus, Izzie Middleton, Claire Chalmers, Tali Brown and Mary Jane Elton

Ian is the appointed elder for this meeting for worship for business.

Minutes of our meetings on Sunday 25 February and 13 April 2025 have been circulated, signed and placed in the minute book.

**2025/06/03 Matters arising**

**(A) Bellfield Big Build Community Shares purchased (2025/04/2)**

Following our extraordinary MfWfB in April, Area Meeting Trustees agreed to us investing £1000 from our local meeting funds and an additional £1500 of Area Meeting funds to buy 100 Bellfield Big Build shares, with an additional guarantee up to £15000 if the share issue was to fall short of the target. The share offer has now successfully closed above the target at £163,000 and we have received a note of thanks from Action Porty for our support in particular. They hugely appreciate the generosity of Portobello & Musselburgh Meeting, South East Scotland Area Meeting Quakers, and the many individual members of the Meeting who helped knock on doors and at the ceilidh, and continue to host, volunteer and organise for activities at Bellfield.

We nominate our Local Meeting Treasurer to represent our interests as the share holding individual. We will notify Trustees of this decision and thank Chris for his work on this on our behalf.

**(B) Developing a relationship with Chris Murray (2024/11/02).**

Our constituency's Member of Parliament, Chris Murray, visited our Meeting on 9 March 2025 and assured us that only defensive items have been sold from the UK to Israel since arms sales licences were reviewed by the new UK government in summer 2024. We will write to Chris Murray as a Meeting to clarify that this is the case, given recent articles citing evidence to the contrary and our corporate witness of minute 30 from BYM 2025. The agreed text is attached.

**2025/06/04 Children and Young People**

Sarah has taken over PVG checking for volunteers supporting our children and young people from Mary Jane. We thank Mary Jane for her service.

## **2025/06/05 Meeting for Worship on 5th Sundays**

We discerned that we want to meet weekly, adding meetings on 5th Sundays to our annual schedule.

We considered the work involved and that we would seek a simple arrangement to limit the number of Friends required to host this. We ask Tali, Ian, Mary Jane, Fabien and Tessa to explore possible arrangements and to bring options back to us in time for our next business meeting on 24 August.

## **2025/06/06 Quaker Week 2025 27 September to 5 October**

Following our minute committing to peace building in our meeting and local community (2025/02/06) we heard a proposal from Alastair to host an exhibition of banners on conscientious objection in Portobello Library. We heard a number of linked options for outreach in and around the library. We ask Alastair, Claire and Duncan to make arrangements with the library and local schools. We will invite friends and neighbours to our morning Meeting on Sunday 28 September, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening meeting on 5 October. Ian will coordinate the additional hosting arrangements for these dates.

## **2025/06/07 Financial Review**

Our Treasurer, Chris Holman, has provided the attached financial update. We have plenty of money to support Light-generating activities. We thank Chris for his work.

## **2025/06/08 Reflections from Britain Yearly Meeting**

We heard from a group of Friends who attended Britain Yearly Meeting and Junior Yearly Meeting and who collated their experiences and read from their reflections today. The texts are attached and highlight how powerful and hopeful attendance at BYM and JYM were. We thank Friends for sharing and Cathy for collating these.

## **2025/06/09 Peacebuilding workshop proposal related to Minute 30**

Duncan proposed a full day interactive workshop for Friends in our Meeting to learn 7 tools for thinking about conflict and peace. The aim is for Friends to learn the 7 tools and practice them. We agree to meet venue costs (within reason) and ask Duncan to advise a date and Robin to assist with bookings.

## **2025/06/10                      Date of next meeting**

Sunday 24 August 2025, at Bellfield 12.45-2pm.

## **2025/06/11                      Closing worship**

Signed

Robin Liebmann (co-clerk)

Sarah Martin (co-clerk)

Marian Willoner (co-clerk)

*Attachments:*

- Letter to Chris Murray
- Financial Review
- Reflections from Britain Yearly Meeting