

Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Meeting for Worship with attention to business

Bellfield, 26th November 2023

MINUTES

2023/11/01 Attendance, worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting

Friends attending: Sarah Martin (co-clerk), Marian Willoner (co-clerk, minuting), Mary Jane Elton, Alastair Cameron, Wade Robertson, Ian Edwards, Ross Campbell, Duncan Wallace, Simon McCallion, Mark Ballard, Tessa Thomas, Jen Shepherd, Robin Liebmann

Prevented: Chris Holman, Fabien Camus, Josie Fawcett, Cathy Holman, Lesley Reid, Kerry Oliver

Opening reading: Alastair Cameron read 10.11 from QFP.

Ian has agreed to be the elder for this meeting

Minutes of our meeting on Sunday 27th August 2023 have been circulated, signed and placed in the minute book.

2023/11/02 Matters arising

Rooms for children and teenagers

Cathy has consulted with the teenager group, as part of the spiritual review. They have requested that they meet on 2nd Sundays, rather than 4th, to coincide with our monthly Meeting for Eating. As the celebration foyer is booked by another group on these days, the teenagers are meeting on the stage of the large hall and the children in the large hall. This appears to be going well.

We will not continue booking the celebration foyer on 4th Sundays.

2023/11/03 Spiritual review update

The spiritual review group thank those who have completed the questionnaire or have been involved in the groups and they request everyone else to please complete questionnaires if not done so and consider attending the 2 remaining events in December.

Heather and Cathy will then try to collate the information gathered in January and the review group will meet and then feedback to the meeting to hear thoughts on the process and any action.

2023/11/04 Financial Review

Our Treasurer, Chris Holman, has sent us the attached financial update.

We note that the healthy financial situation is helpful if we decide to additionally hire the Fisherrow Centre for Meeting for Worship on 3rd Sundays.

2023/11/05 Meeting for Worship on 3rd Sundays

We currently host several meetings (for children, teenagers and adults) 3 times a month – in the evening on 1st Sundays and in the morning on 2nd and 4th Sundays, all at Bellfield. We

are invited to consider having an additional meeting for worship each month, at the Fisherrow Community Centre in Musselburgh, on 3rd Sundays, either in the morning or in the evening.

Friends have reported hearing strong feelings that we should have a Meeting in Musselburgh. We heard that there are Friends who stopped attending when we moved from Fisherrow to Bellfield. There is a feeling within the Meeting that many would like to meet more frequently than we currently do, while others appreciate their free 3rd Sunday. The name of our Meeting is Portobello and Musselburgh and it is important to honour the Musselburgh part of this name.

Logistically, we would need to have a second copy of items to be stored at the Fisherrow Centre and Friends to take on the tasks necessary for holding Meeting for Worship. We heard that if the Spirit wants us to hold additional Meetings, Friends will rise to the tasks. We are reminded of our testimony to simplicity.

We have benefitted from the support of other Edinburgh Meetings in the setting up of Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting and would like to carry on in this spirit.

We would like to approach this with a sense of adventure, joy and experimentation.

We also heard that the spiritual review process is ongoing and this discernment is a part of that process.

We send this minute as a submission to the spiritual review group to consider alongside the other contributions they are seeking. The group will report back to Local Meeting in February which is when we will resume the discernment collectively.

2023/11/06 Date of next meeting

Sunday 25th February 2024, at Bellfield 12.45-2pm.

2023/11/07 Closing worship

Signed

Marian Willoner (co-clerk)

Sarah Martin (co-clerk)