

**Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business,
Bellfield, 27 November 2022**

MINUTES

2022/11/01 Attendance, worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting

Friends attending: Robin Liebmann, Sarah Martin, Marian Willoner, Jen Shepherd, Cathy Holman, Chris Holman, Jane Lewis, Chris Booth, Ross Campbell, Fabien Camus, Jessica Patterson, Danny Higginson, Katrina McCrea, Joanne Power, Alastair Cameron, Mary Jane Elton, Mark Ballard

Prevented: Lynn Mayer, Lesley Reid

Opening reading: In the opening silence, we heard QFP 3.02

Minutes of our meeting on Sunday, 28 August 2022, have been circulated, signed and placed in the minutes book.

2022/11/02 Representatives and Appointments

Pastoral Friends, Elders and Clerks Team have asked Marian Willoner and Sarah Martin to serve as co-clerks for a period of three years. Friends accepted the appointment of Marian Willoner and Sarah Martin as additional co-clerks joining Robin Liebmann and there is a now trio of co-clerks to serve Portobello and Musselburgh Quaker Meeting.

Katrina McCrea will represent us at Area Meeting at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House on Monday 16 January at 7 pm.

Cathy Holman will represent us at General Meeting on Saturday, 11 March 2023 hosted by West Scotland Area Meeting.

We hope to appoint a further Friend to represent us at Area Meeting (all-day) on Saturday 18 March.

These Friends have agreed to share a short report of the Meeting in notices at the following Local Meeting for Worship.

Additionally, Area Meeting clerks are planning a day of learning, sharing, creating and stimulation on the topic of responding to the challenges of the climate emergency. This positive event to share ideas and creativity, open to all, is to be held on Saturday 22 April 2023. “We need people to join in making this happen – to plan what we do; encourage others to join in; give a welcome to those participating. It may become the start of a series: it certainly won’t be something we do once and then set aside. In the 18th century, every Quaker, whether willingly or not, benefited from the slave trade; yet they worked with others to abolish it. Similarly, we benefit from the consumption culture that drives our modern economy, while knowing that it is destroying the earth. We face the need for change with courage and a sense of fun. Is this something you can do?”

Chris Booth, Cathy Holman and Jane Lewis put themselves forward and will contact AM clerks.

2022/11/03 Matters arising

- a. For Quaker Week 2022 we welcomed families to our local Meeting on 25th September and 2nd October. We encouraged young people to bring a friend and adults to bring a family. Several friends and neighbours joined us. Evening Meeting was held in the small hall and we have considered changing venue as a result. We have been asked whether our Meetings are advertised on university campuses. We ask Jane Lewis to request Leslie Morrison (AM Universities Contact) makes information about our various Meetings available at local campuses.
- b. Area Meeting requested Local Meetings discern their use of the term Overseer. Overseers at Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting request to be called Pastoral Friends and we agree to use this term at present. We heard about the origins of these terms in Greek and Biblical history. We ask our Pastoral Care Group to schedule a conversation with Friends about these roles and terminology.
- c. We remind young Friends to contact Clerks on portymussclerks@gmail.com if they intend to make use of the travel fund to visit other Scottish meetings.
- d. Shared lunches have been held on second Sundays. We have a recurring booking in the large hall. We agree this has been popular and plan to continue to share food on second Sundays after Meeting. We heard a proposal to set up a group that takes turns making soup. We ask Mark Ballard to coordinate Friends making soup and washing up.
- e. Conversations with Friends have been taking place on 4th Sundays after Meeting. The next will be “Is today a special day?” on December 25th. We plan to continue hosting Conversations with Friends on 4th Sundays.

2022/11/04 Membership matters

In August’s Business Meeting, 2022/8/8, we minuted that we feel that there is a lack of awareness even among long-term attenders about how to apply for membership and this conversation is something we should encourage in all our Local and Area Meetings. We have had a Conversation with Friends on the topic of Membership and invite conversations with Young Friends in our Meeting in particular. We encourage Friends with questions about membership or considering membership to contact their nominated member of the Pastoral Care Team and read Quaker Faith and Practice. We remind the Pastoral Care Team members with lists to make themselves known to Friends on their lists.

2022/11/05 Subscription to The Friend

Friends have suggested our Meeting subscribes to The Friend to better connect Friends to central work. We considered the merits of a Meeting subscription to The Friend as a way to engage with issues affecting Friends elsewhere in Britain Yearly Meeting and globally. We agree to try the 8 week trial for £5 to see whether Friends find this a helpful addition to our reading material and propose to review this via email towards the end of the 8 week trial.

2022/11/06 Letter to MSPs re Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance

We have been invited to write to our MSPs to propose Scotland becomes a member of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance. We ask Co-Clerks to send the following letter to our MSPs.

Dear (MSP)

As your constituents at Portobello and Musselburgh Quaker Meeting, we want to bring to your attention a [new briefing on a managed phase out of North Sea oil and gas](#), by a diverse coalition of 60 organisations (Stop Climate Chaos Scotland). We support this report and ask you to raise this issue with the Scottish Government and to encourage making Scotland a member of the [Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance](#).

As you will be aware, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made it clear that globally we are not doing enough to address the changes already happening in our climate. Disasters are becoming more frequent around the world, threatening food production and lives, with climate-related forced migration set to grow to many millions.

At the opening of the recent COP-27, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres graphically described the world's worsening plight – “We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator”. Even if we burn only the oil and gas in fields already in development around the world it is unlikely that we will meet current emissions reduction targets and we will very soon take global warming beyond 1.5°C. We need a commitment to no new oil and gas exploration and a managed, rapid wind-down of fossil fuel production.

Scotland has expressed its intention to play its part in a just and equitable transition to net zero carbon emissions. This is welcome, but it is incompatible with the development of new oil and gas extraction and it necessitates an early end to production. The March 2022 Tyndall Centre report [Phaseout Pathways for Fossil Fuel Production](#), which takes into account countries' differing levels of wealth, development and economic reliance on fossil fuels, finds that to have even a 67% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C, the UK and other rich nations must end production by 2031.

We recognise that much of energy policy is reserved, but the linked briefing outlines a number of things that the Scottish Government could still do within its devolved competence. In particular I would like to see Scotland follow the Welsh Government's lead and become members of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance. I believe that this would make clear Scotland's position on oil and gas, set a leadership example to others, and place essential pressure on the UK government.

We hope that you will take this up with the government on our behalf, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

In friendship,

Co-clerks Robin Liebmann, Sarah Martin, Marian Willoner

On behalf of Portobello and Musselburgh Quaker Meeting

portymussclerks@gmail.com

C/O 1/1 Mentone Avenue, Portobello EH15 1HZ

2022/11/07 Connecting with our beneficiaries

We considered connecting with the organisations we support financially in additional, creative ways.

We have been invited to plant bulbs at Wiston Lodge. We ask Lesley Reid to check whether Jock Tamson's Garden could take volunteers from our Meeting. We hope to contribute to a ceilidh in support of Failte Edinburgh. We will ask Gareth Rae from Failte Edinburgh to consider visiting our Meeting for a conversation with Friends.

2022/11/08 Frequency and timing of our Meetings

We periodically review whether our Meeting frequency and time still suits Friends. Today we have been asked review the frequency.

We heard contributions in favour of holding a Meeting every Sunday, and the positive impact this would have on our community now we are a medium-to-large Meeting. We also heard that we additionally support and uphold two children's Meetings and one young person's Meeting each Month. We asked questions about our resources and energy to run weekly Meetings. We would like to initiate a review including our wider meeting beyond those present today to identify what our needs and resources are towards supporting changes to frequency and timing. We ask Pastoral Care Team and Clerks to take this forward.

2022/11/09 Close of Meeting

We closed our meeting with silent worship