

**Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business,
Bellfield, 27 August 2023**

MINUTES

2023/08/01 Attendance, worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting

Friends attending: Robin Liebmann, Joanne Power, Fabien Camus, Alastair Cameron, Tessa Thomas-Pyne, Mary Jane Elton, Ross Campbell, Wade Robertson, Kerry Oliver, Marian Willoner, Sarah Martin, Chris Holman, Cathy Holman, Carolyn Urquhart

Prevented: Jen Shepperd

In the opening silence, Joanne read a quote from Ben Pink Dandelion from "Celebrating the Quaker Way" quoted in the collection "Living Our Beliefs" on page 72.

Fabien agreed to be our Elder for the Meeting.

Minutes of our meeting on Sunday, 28 May 2023, have been circulated, and will be signed, and placed in the minutes book.

2023/08/02 Matters arising: Spiritual Review

A planning group (Wade, Fabien, Cathy, Robin, Heather, Josie and Lynn, plus lola who was prevented) met on 15 August to discern how this will be carried out. They have started the process of reviewing the spiritual life of our Meeting and have decided to focus on the following questions: 1) what do I value in our meeting? 2) What is my experience? 3) What is missing in our meeting? 4) What can I contribute to the life of our meeting?

The group envisage creative and quieter sessions for all ages over the coming months which will be communicated in notices and via printed and email communications.

2023/08/03 Matters arising: Rooms for children and Teenagers

We have been consulting families and young people about which rooms are best used for which groups. Families and young people are willing to be flexible. Therefore, on 2nd Sundays children will meet in the large hall. On 4th Sundays children will meet in the celebration foyer and teenagers in the large hall.

2023/08/04 Matters arising: Accessibility and inclusion

We held a conversation with Friends about the accessibility of our meeting in June and learned about the social model of disability. We hope to follow up with a further conversation in September. Mark and Josie have been approached to make arrangements for a follow up conversation in October, and the spiritual review group plan to include accessibility in the review process.

2023/08/05 Matters arising: The Friend

We have subscribed to The Friend for one year, keeping back copies and bringing them out on the table each week. Lesley has confirmed that we cannot subscribe to the Friend online as a Meeting, however Chris Holman has online access as an individual on his computer that is currently not used much. This may be useful for printing individual articles that Friends would like to refer to over a longer period of time.

2023/08/06 Quaker Week

Quaker Week takes place at the end of September. We will meet on 24 September at 11am (adults, young people and children) and on 1st October at 7.30pm (adults and teenagers). We propose meeting outside in the garden if weather permits on the 24th.

After rich discussion and discernment we propose inviting friends and family (including children) as in previous years for Meeting followed by refreshments, cake and any questions, and in addition to advertise locally on notice boards.

We were reminded not to put too much pressure on ourselves in this single week, but to use more natural links to the wider community and join events such as for example Porty Pride.

2023/08/07 Ceilidh in December

The Ceilidh Collective headed up by Robin have offered to work with us to run a family friendly fundraising ceilidh following on the successful event last year. The aim is to raise funds for the organisations we support and for building community and outreach. We heard from QFP 20.39 and discerned that we would be comfortable with alcohol in moderation being available for purchase from the bar as is usual at Ceilidh Collective events.

2023/08/08 10th anniversary celebration

On Sunday 10 December we will have officially been a local meeting for 10 years. We ask Elders, Pastoral Friends and Clerks to consider ways of marking this

occasion and propose holding a celebratory meeting for eating after Meeting on 10 December.

2023/08/09 Financial update

Chris Holman has submitted a summary to 22 August 2023 showing our Meeting is in robust financial health. The accounts show an excess of income over expenditure so far this year: the Meeting has plenty of funds to support its activities. Money is available for activities or items which support the spiritual life of the Meeting. Friends are encouraged to speak with a Pastoral Friend, Elder or Clerk with proposals for any such use of our funds, which would then be taken to the PECs group, so they can bring options for further discernment at our next business meeting.

Failte Edinburgh have brought contributions to an end as the financial commitment to the Refugee family is ending. The collections will therefore be divided from now between Jock Tamson's Gairden and Wiston Lodge.

2023/08/10 Date of next Meeting (26 November 2023) and closing worship