

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

Minute from Area Meeting, 27th June

30 Friends attending through video-conference with one joining by telephone. Aberdeen (13), Lochaber & Lorn (1), Shetland (1), Forres (4), Inverness (8), Orkney (1), Westray (1) Meetings represented

Prevented: Anthea Mason (Aberdeen), Jessie Clerk (Aberdeen), Ann Millar (Aberdeen), Sandy McEwen, Jean Thomson

Elder: Oriole Hall

Meeting for Worship for business started at 10.30am, with a 10 minute break at 12.50 finished at 13.30.

31/30 QF&P 10.05 was read, reminding us of the diversity in ministry and service that we can bring to our Meeting.

Membership

32/30 We record the death of Jackie Ward, an attender at Orkney Meeting.

Derek MacLean wrote: *Jackie was a recent attender when I arrived in Orkney in 2011. She had a quiet spiritual presence in meeting which we all valued. She discovered 'Becoming Friends', a BYM resource for enquirers which was available in book and online format. So we met regularly over several months and worked our way through the course, which was an enriching experience for both of us. 3 or 4 years ago Jackie felt the meeting wasn't meeting her needs, so she stopped attending but remained in the book of members. We wished her well and some of us continued our friendship. A few weeks ago I had a lovely exchange of emails with Jackie, when she said she was enjoying the lockdown because it gave her an experience of being on retreat, something she had always wanted to do. She was feeling well and enjoying the solitude which she found spiritually enriching. So it is comforting to know she was in such a good place.*

33/20 We acknowledge the death of Carin Huddart (Aberdeen) who died on 8th June 2020. Carin had been a member of Area Meeting for many years, latterly unable to attend Meeting for Worship because of failing health but she had been visited regularly by Aberdeen Friends and had been able to join some of the video Meetings.

34/20 It's with considerable sadness that we also record the death of Tracey Coutts, attender at Aberdeen Meeting and fiance of our Friend Clive Potter. We uphold Clive and Tracey's daughter Kierra at this time.

35/20 Following an application to membership from Valerie Saunders, Phyllida Sayles (Inverness/Caithness) and David James (Lochaber and Lorn) met with Valerie by video conference (due to Covid-19 restrictions) on June 10th 2020. Their report has been read out and we warmly welcome Valerie into membership, hoping that many more of us will get to know her commitment to life-long learning and living adventurously.

The Clerk will ask Peter Heald to liaise with Valerie with respect to a suitable book as a gift to mark this occasion.

36/20 We have received an application for membership from Lesley Reynolds. We appoint Colin Stirling (Aberdeen) and Lynden Easterbrook (Forres) to serve as visitors to Lesley and ask them to report back when the time is right.

Trustees

37/20 AM Nominations Committee have read a short part of their document explaining the role of AM Trustee. The full document is attached.

38/20 In February this year Trustees wrote to the tenant of 100 Crown Street intimating that the tenancy would not be renewed when it expires in September this year. This decision and its implications were challenged by some Friends which has left Trustees feeling hurt and concerned that they do not have the trust of Area Meeting.

Since then the tenant of 100 Crown St was offered (and the tenant rejected) a year's extension to his lease. An agreed Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with Aberdeen Meeting. However at Area Meeting on 9th May a further accusation was made that Trustees had acted improperly with regard to 100 Crown St. The statement has since been retracted and the clerking team met to discuss the issue and how we bring it to AM for resolution.

The tenant has written to trustees indicating that a tenancy agreement of at least 5 years might be acceptable.

Area Meeting affirms its full confidence in our Trustees to carry out their functions effectively, especially with respect to the Aberdeen properties for the best interests of AM as a whole.

We recognise the distress that this matter has caused to Trustees and to Aberdeen Friends and we ask trustees and Aberdeen Meeting, through its premises committee and with reference to the MoU to work together on the future management of 100 Crown St. The priority is to resolve the tenancy agreement as soon as possible.

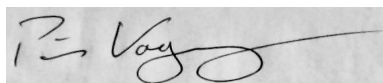
Area Meeting upholds Trustees prayerfully, thoughtfully and as Friends. We acknowledge the need to bring AM together as a whole to discern a future vision for the Aberdeen Properties.

39/20 We received the minute from Trustees Meeting on 19th June 2020.

2019 NSAQM Accounts

40/20 Our treasurer, Anthony Buxton presented the accounts approved by Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2019. We acknowledge the additional work of not only including the NSQT funds but also adapting the format to meet OSCR requirements. We are grateful of the detail provided in the annual report. We thank Anthony and his fellow trustees for producing the annual report and accounts, which can now be submitted to OSCR.

Signed



Piers Voysey
Clerk



Andrew Collins
Assistant Clerk

