

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

25th July 2020

Meeting by Video conference, 10am, due to Covid-19

Local Meetings represented: Inverness, Aberdeen, Lochaber & Lorn, Westray, Orkney, Forres, Skye, Nairn, Shetland (total number of Friends 23)

Friends prevented: Chris Mayo; Valerie Saunders, Sandy McEwen

Elder for this Meeting: Penny Selbie

Minutes

41/20 At the start of our entering into worship, 4/8 from the Irish Quaker Faith and Practice was read, encouraging us to apply our service to the calling of the spirit in all walks of life.

42/20 Acknowledging a factual error in minute 33/20. The revised minute reads: *We record the death of Carin Huddart (Aberdeen) who died on 8th June 2020.*

Nominations

43/20 We appoint Anthea Mason and Jane Booth as Trustees to serve from now until 31 December 2023. From 1st January 2021 the Trustee team will also include David James, William McEwen, Anthony Buxton. Assistant treasurer and assistant clerk (to be confirmed and we will aim to do this at the August AM).

44/20 We appoint Anthony Buxton to serve a second triennium as treasurer, starting 1st January 2021 until 31 December 2023.

45/20 We received the note (See attached) from the meeting of AM and GM clerks on Saturday 9th May to consider options for nominating Trustees for North Scotland. David James, Robert Wilson and Piers Voysey have made contact with other AM's in Scotland and are taking things forward.

46/20 We appoint Peter Heald to continue as Membership Clerk from 1st January 2021 to 31 December 2023.

47/20 Worship sharing on Service

Friends spoke from personal experience, and truly welcomed new ways of doing things and new ways of helping Friends take on roles in The Society of Friends, whilst acknowledging some of the challenges due to the nature of our self-governing organisation, our ageing community and not being great at outreach; these limit the numbers and the energy of Friends available to take on roles.

Video conferencing has developed during the Covid-19 pandemic and this has created opportunities to engage with Meetings without the hurdle of geographical distance. It is also a barrier that prevents others from serving in practical ways and it may take time to re-engage with these Friends.

We acknowledged that a service period of 3 years can seem like a long time for some friends, but it has value for roles that take time to get to grips with and where continuity is important. That Friends who are too well established in their meeting roles might become barriers to others taking on roles - that there is perhaps value in stepping back from any role once you have served more than 6 or 12 years in various roles. Be confident that Friends will come forward with fresh ideas.

We said yes to:

- offering shadowing as a gentle way into a role or to supporting someone into a role;
- finding a means of offering a mentor for those new into a role;
- sharing roles where appropriate;
- offering shorter terms than 3 years where this is appropriate;

- reducing any contrast between attenders and members.

Service must be enjoyable, not a burden. Yes, at times duties will impinge on 'other life', but service must bring personal fulfilment, and enjoyable ways to relate to each other and the wider Quaker community. Make roles fit you - your skills, experience & the time available to you to offer to the role. You will also grow into the roles and develop confidence.

Acknowledge that all we do in life is service to the meeting of life.

We ask Nominations to work with the clerking team to produce a list of current AM roles. To then bring to AM a suggestion as to what roles we could do without or means of service that we need, with a view to simplifying the way we work together and work together better. We would then ask Local Meetings to consider the question to individuals: what role do you see yourself in and what role might interest you?

We ask Robert Wilson to share this minute with Jonathan Carmichael of the simplified meetings project.

Piers Voysey
Clerk

Oriole Hall
Assistant Clerk