

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting (NSAQM)

14th November 2020

Meeting for worship for business held by video-conferencing, starting at 10am

54/20 We have gathered together and welcomed 22 friends from 8 local Meetings and Worshiping Groups. In our opening worship part of 23.14 from QF&P was read out.

55/20 Planning Committee

The Meeting approves the Terms of Reference for our Area Meeting Planning Committee:

“As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic and, that our Area Meetings will for the foreseeable be hosted on a virtual platform, this structure for the AM Planning Committee replaces that defined in AM Minute 33/19 (4th May 2019) and will be kept under review as and when we can re-start face to face Area Meetings.

This committee will be known as NSAQM Planning Committee and the core members of the committee will be appointed by NSAQM.

It aims to include Friends to represent all our Local Meetings (each providing at least one representative) and will also include a representative from the clerking team, the communications/web management group, E&Os and trustees as necessary for the agenda.

Their responsibility will be the planning and hosting of the Area Meetings in any of their identities - physical, digital, residential or any form of hybrid. In the present pandemic climate Area Meetings will be held as frequently as is required to keep them brief, so that Friends do not experience undue fatigue, which is recognised as a possible by-product of digital meetings.

The planning Committee will coordinate and circulate the agenda so that all necessary business is dealt with in a timely manner and Local Meetings (LM's) have good warning of items to be discerned . At least 3-weeks notice will be given of AM's. This will enable and hopefully ensure LM's might discern and brief representatives or supply a written response for inclusion at the appropriate Area Meeting.

The Committee will also oversee the search for suitable venues, and speakers and arrange assistance to Local Meetings willing to host Area Meetings, as required.

The Planning Committee will appoint its own clerk and be permitted to co-opt those willing to assist with their remit. The Planning Committee meetings will be open to all NSAQM Members and Attenders; if a request to join a meeting is received in time to circulate joining instructions and relevant documents.

Planning Committee Meeting minutes will be circulated to AM.”

56/20 We will return to the question of whether the Planning Committee is authorised to make 'between meeting decisions' and what these might include.

Nominations

57/20 The Meeting appoints these Friends to serve as the initial, core group Planning Committee members alongside the clerking team, serving from 1 January 2021 until 31 Dec 2021:

- Roger Ellis,
- Jane Booth,
- Clunie Conochie,
- William Purser,
- Robert Wilson.

We acknowledge that this core group might change as our experience with the Planning Committee develops. Building in staggered appointments may be necessary to ensure continuity. We have been made aware that Locharber and Lorn have not been fully consulted and the AM Clerk will address this. We also acknowledge that the Planning Committee might need to meet prior to the end of December in order to prepare for an AM in early February.

58/20 The Meeting releases Phyllida Sayles from service as Assistant Clerk and we thank her for her long service as both clerk and assistant clerk.

59/20 Oriole Hall ends her service as assistant clerk at the end of December 2020. Piers Voysey continues as Clerk and Andrew Collins as Assistant Clerk. We ask Nominations to continue their search for 3 assistant clerks to complete the clerking team for 2021-2023.

60/20 AM Budget 2021

The Meeting accepts the budget for the General Fund prepared by Anthony Buxton and approved by Trustees. Our thanks to them. The budget for the NSQT funds are still under review, pending property reports.

61/20 Accounts inspection

The Meeting agrees to re-appointment Scholes of Kirkwall as examiners of the 2020 accounts and confirms that Trustees can make the necessary arrangements.

62/20 Report from General Meeting (31 Oct 2020)

The meeting encourages all AM friends to read the minutes from GM as a number of them will be of interest. Concern was expressed that the issue presented in our minute 53/20 from 19 October won't be considered by GM until March 2021.

63/20 Transfer of Membership: We have accepted the transfer of membership into North Scotland of Carolyn Burch and Richard Raggett who are moving from East Scotland to live near Huntly. They are committed Friends and we look forward to getting to know them better.

64/20 We wish to consider how AM might offer more support to Local Meetings & Worshiping Groups who might be struggling to maintain their network of Friends during the pandemic. The AM Clerk will send an email to Local Meeting Clerks and Correspondents inviting them to get in touch if they need support

65/20 Dates

Planning Committee: will next meet on Monday 7th Dec @ 7pm to prepare for the: Fellowship Meeting on Saturday 19th Dec @ 5.30pm (tbc). That we hope this AM Meeting will be a time to share poems and songs and stories of the rituals that support us through the winter months.

Anyone wishing to be part of the Planning Committee for this AM meeting, please contact Anthony Buxton.

Notices

Kenneth Stevens: two of the poems in this new collection, "Out of the Ordinary" are from his time with Friends at Pluscarden.

<https://standrewpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781800830059/out-of-the-ordinary>

or

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Out-Ordinary-Poems-Kenneth-Steven/dp/180083005X>

Ann Millar: has moved to Simeon Care, Bielside, nr Aberdeen. She can still be contacted on her Inverurie phone number and would welcome calls from friends.

North Scotland Quaker Notebook: Hard copies now available from Jane Booth, £7.50, payable by cheque or bank transfer. Christmas present for a friend who is curious about Quakers? (ghlo@live.co.uk, or West Haybogs, Tough, Alford, AB33 8DU).