

## **North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting**

### **Meeting for Church Affairs**

**7pm. 28 November 2024 – online**

**Present:** Clunie Conochie (Inverness), Clive Potter (Aberdeen), Piers Voysey (Clerk – Forres), Anthony Buxton (Forres), Sue Walton (Forres), Helen Stephens (Aberdeen), Anthea Mason (Aberdeen), Marion Strachan (Aberdeen), Sila Collins-Walden (Inverness), Tom Sayles (Inverness), Andrew Collins (Aberdeen), Sandy McEwen (Westray), Mary & Nigel Dower (Aberdeen)

### **Minutes:**

#### **Membership**

**56/24:** We record the death of Mavis Jones, once a very active, long standing and much valued member of Aberdeen local meeting but also active in the then Monthly Meeting. Mavis died on Sunday 3rd November (aged 83). She had been at home with carers for some years in Kemnay. A Quaker Funeral was held in St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Kemnay, on Tuesday the 12th of November. Mavis is buried near her husband Mel who died some years previously.

Mavis was a great support to Area Meeting, although Covid and her failing health meant that in recent years she had not been able to engage significantly with us. She will be missed by those who knew and worshipped with her.

**57/24:** We have received a request to resign membership to the Society of Friends from Alan Fleming. Alan had been at Aberdeen Meeting before he and his family moved to Edinburgh. Our understanding is that Alan has not been active in the Society of Friends since he moved away.

The Clerk will email Alan to let him know that his resignation request has been received and will be actioned. His name will be removed from current Quaker membership data records.

#### **58/24: Safeguarding report**

We receive the safeguarding report for 2024 prepared by Clunie Conochie. We note that Pastoral & Spiritual Care Friends will be receiving safeguarding training soon in the new year and an invitation to this early round of training will include Trustees.

We thank Clunie for a clear and comprehensive report.

#### **59/24: 100 Crown St.**

We receive the options report from a working group of Aberdeen friends that lays out three options for 100 Crown St:

1. That of seeking a grant to pay for a feasibility study to convert the property into domestic tenancies/house of multiple occupancy (HMO);
2. To explore interest from alternative tenants who would use the building for uses of greater value to the community than its current use;
3. To sell 100 Crown St.

We have also heard that current rental income is just about balancing with outgoings, but we are not able to build up to the desired level of reserves recommended for the value of the property.

There is agreement that any sale option is not considered further; not until Quakers in Scotland is established, as this is likely to proceed steadily over the next year or two. [Having a property on the

market could complicate the transfer of assets to QiS.]

There is also agreement that some rental income is better than none and that the current arrangement with Alban Associates works, even if not very satisfactorily. It is felt that we must continue to press the tenant to sign the new lease that has been prepared, to reflect their actual use of the building. There may then be more flexibility to find another tenant to use other of the rooms available in the building.

If the tenant does not sign up to the new lease we will need to revisit this matter in March so that there is time to take action if terminating the lease is the preferred way forward. If the tenant does sign the new lease then it will run from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025, with the option to continue for another year, but we would still need to consider our options in June 2025.

### **Nominations**

**60/24:** Anthony Buxton – to serve as treasurer from 1 January 2025 to such time as Quakers in Scotland becomes operational and North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting can be laid down, but no longer than 31 December 2027.

**61:24:** Piers Voysey – to serve as Area Meeting Clerk from 1 January 2025 to such time as Quakers in Scotland becomes operational and North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting can be laid down, but no longer than 31 December 2026.

[Trustees will refer to the Governing Document and alert the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulators (OSCR), as necessary, to the fact that role holders are remaining in post beyond their detailed periods of service in order to maintain continuity through the transition to QiS]

Piers Voysey  
Clerk