

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND
Meeting of Trustees 15.6.2013

Minutes

Present: Pam Brunt, Martin Burnell, Robin Davis (clerk), Margaret Morton
Prevented: David James, John Phillips

Scottish Advocacy Project

Following minute 9 of the General Meeting held 17.11.2012 on the proposal for the “establishment of a part-time post based in Scotland to enable Friends to play a more effective advocacy role in Scotland”, and the report of the Parliamentary Liaison Group to General Meeting on 2.3.2013, we minuted (minute 6 of 2.3.2013) that it is likely that General Meeting will require to consider a financial commitment at a later date. Our reserves could be used for an initial period. Trustees will be called upon to advise General Meeting when the time comes.”

We have now received a report dated 9.5.2013 of a meeting between Jane Dawson (BYM Communications and Services department) and our Treasurer, John Phillips, together with some estimates of the likely costs of the proposal. We have also received details of two related posts recently advertised for work with the Westminster Parliament and based in Jane’s department. Robin Waterston, General Meeting Clerk, has asked trustees to present a proposal to General Meeting when it meets on September 7. Any paper we write will have to be ready for circulation by the end of August if it has to meet that deadline.

We are grateful for the work done to date. Our basic questions now are

- 1 Can we afford it?
- 2 What will the postholder do? What is the precise purpose of the role?
- 3 How will the postholder be managed?

We recommend that General Meeting asks the trustees to work with the Parliamentary Liaison Group to finalise this, including establishing the purpose of the post, the management structure, and providing detailed costings. Trustees should then ask Area Meetings directly for their views as they will have to make a substantial financial commitment if this project is to go ahead. Because of the time consultation will take, it will be November before we will be ready to bring a paper to General Meeting.

[confidential minute removed]

Robin Davis, Clerk