

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND TRUSTEES

Minutes – Weds 7 Feb 2024 by zoom

Present – Robin Waterston (Clerk), Andrew Blackadder, Katrina McCrea, Malcolm Crosby

1. Annual Accounts 2023

We have considered the draft Annual Accounts for 2023. We accept these, with some additional notes for clarity.

2. Financial matters

We have considered the need for a reserves policy. This would normally require the retention of funds equivalent to 6 months operating costs. We adopt this as our policy.

Our current balances are in excess of this. Looking forward however, we can anticipate exceptional additional expenses arising from the possible reorganisation of Quakers in Scotland. We are not therefore recommending a transfer of funds to BYM at the moment. We will keep this under annual review.

We ask the treasurer to transfer as much as is prudent from the current account to the deposit account with the purpose of increasing the interest return.

We will not apply for a grant from the Camfield Trust this year.

We have considered whether our external examiner, being a member of General Meeting in South East Scotland Area Meeting, might be perceived as having a conflict of interest. We ask the Treasurer to investigate finding a different person for future years to avoid any such perception.

3. Trustees Annual Report

We have received and agree a draft report from the Clerk on the work of Trustees in 2023. He will present the report to GM in March.

4. Draft Governing Document for Quakers in Scotland

We have received and considered the draft governing document from QISCG (Jan 2024). We have two comments:

(a) Para 29 – We recommend that the definition of Attenders given in para 109 replaces para 29.

(b) Para 80 – we recommend that the quorum for trustee meetings be “not less than 50% of the current trustees”.

Otherwise, we are happy to support the text.

The Clerk will pass on these comments to the coordinating group.

5. Church Suite

The Clerk has reported on Church Suite, an online interactive database used by many churches for administrative purposes. Jane Booth is experimenting with this. We see this as having definite potential for future development, but not in time to change the production plans for the 2025 Book of Members. We encourage Jane to continue her exploration.

6. Update on signatories

Robin and Andrew are now signatories on the Coop account as well as Triodos. Katrina will explore adding Malcolm to both the Triodos and the Coop accounts.

7. Cloud Storage

All trustees now have access to files stored on Dropbox. Katrina has uploaded various financial records.

8. Memorandum of Understanding between BYM and GMS

We have considered the proposed MoU dated 1 Feb 2024. We agree to enter into this MoU on behalf of GMS.

9. Dates of next regular meetings

- Thur 9 May, 7.30 pm (to consider annual report to OSCR)
- Tues 15 Oct, 7.30 pm (to consider budget for 2025).

Additional meetings will be arranged as required.

Robin Waterston, Clerk