

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND TRUSTEES

Minutes – Weds 19 February 2025 by zoom

Present – Robin Waterston (Clerk), Andrew Blackadder, Katrina McCrea, Malcolm Crosby, Kevin Franz, Neil Turner.

1. Annual Accounts 2024

We have considered the draft Annual Accounts for 2024 and notes. We accept these, with thanks to our treasurer.

We ask Katrina to transfer £7000 from the Coop account to the Triodos account, with the purpose of increasing the interest return.

We also ask her to add a column showing the 2024 budget figures.*

2. Reserves policy

Our reserves policy is to hold funds equivalent to 6 months operating costs. Our current balance is well in excess of this. We recommended last year that because of uncertainties about future organisation of Quakers in Scotland, we did not propose transferring any surplus to BYM. We agree to retain this position this year.

However, in view of the amount of the surplus, we agree to recommend to GM that we reduce the funds requested from AMs in 2025 from £16000 to £12000.

We also recommend that the contribution to BYM towards the PEO post be increased by £500 to £6500 and to keep the figure under review annually.

3. GM membership of ASPA

We agree that GM should continue its membership of the Association for Scottish Public Affairs (ASPA) at current annual cost of £35, until further notice.

4. Trustees Annual Report

We have received and agree a draft report from the Clerk on the work of Trustees in 2024. He will present the report to GM in March.

5. Reflections on Quakers in Scotland, next steps

Neil has reported on where we are with the Quakers in Scotland proposals. We note that the draft Governing Document has been submitted to OSCR for their comments and approval, and that the newly appointed Foundation Trustees are in post and have started work.

We remain happy with the direction of travel.

One aspect of uncertainty and possible concern is that if not all AMs join the new SCIO, what body will speak for Friends in Scotland to outside bodies?

We agree that it would be helpful for us to have a special Trustee meeting to consider the various options after the Governing Document has been approved by OSCR. We ask that QiSCG prepare a report for us on possible transitional arrangements.

6. Update on Treasurers Forum and Trustee Clerks Forum

It seems that the Treasurers Forum has been dormant for a time. Neil will look into this.

Regular meetings of the Trustee Clerks Forum have continued. Robin reports that they provide useful occasions for exchange of information, ideas and support across Scotland.

7. Data Protection policy

The current GM data protection policy is dated June 2018. We agree that it is time for it to be reviewed. Robin will circulate the policy for comment, and we will consider possible amendments at our next meeting.

8. Dates of next regular meeting 2025

- Tues 14th Oct, 7.30 pm (to consider budget for 2026).

Additional meetings will be arranged as required.

Robin Waterston, Clerk

*Supplementary note: following the meeting, an email discussion took place, and it was agreed that we would not ask for the previous budget figures to be included.