

# **GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND TRUSTEES**

## **Minutes – Thur 9 May 2024 by zoom**

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

### **1. Annual Report and Accounts 2023**

We have considered the draft Annual Report to OSCR for 2023. Accounts were approved in February. We approve the report. We ask Katrina to forward the documents to GM, Friends House and OSCR. Katrina will speak to them at GM in June.

### **2. Financial matters**

We have received an update from Katrina.

Co-op Bank balance is £38,112.93.

Triodos Bank balance is £31,594.34 (includes interest paid on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 1<sup>st</sup> April of £376.26). Triodos pays an interest rate of 2.4% and requires 33 days notice for funds to be moved.

All the budgeted payments to Charities will be paid in June.

Katrina will look at moving £10,000 from Co-op into Triodos as well as how to manage the cash flow better, taking advantage of accruing interest. Katrina will also check and see if Triodos can offer a better interest rate for longer term deposits.

### **3. Reflections on the QiSCG process**

We have reflected on the situation for Friends in Scotland following the special GM on 6 April. We are concerned that lack of agreement for the proposed Governing Document for the new single SCIO is causing further delay. We understand that important issues are involved and that we should not make a rushed decision. However, we note that the request for a single charity was first brought to GM in 2017 (Minute 5 of 18.11.2017). This arose from difficulties in filling posts. It has been under active consideration since then. In September last year it was minuted (GM 23/09/08) that all the bodies involved supported taking the planning for a single charity further. Quakers in Scotland Coordinating Group was formed with a mandate to bring forward a draft Governing Document for the new charity. This was widely discussed and revised before coming to GM on 6 April. However, it was not agreed. QiSCG have been asked to continue their work.

We are concerned that the current organisation of Friends in Scotland is unstable, in that essential posts are not being filled and some AMs are on the point of collapse as a consequence. The GM Trustee body is under strength. We are concerned about the risks of the ongoing uncertainty. We uphold QiSCG in their ongoing work to clarify possible transitional arrangements and on sustaining local connections and Quaker communities within Scotland. We ask that all the bodies involved work with urgency to address the remaining concerns, in a spirit of trust. We ask the Clerk to forward this Minute to the Clerks of GM, QiSCG, the 4 AMs and DFPT.

#### **4. Ecumenical work**

We have received correspondence through the GM Clerk relating to ongoing discussions involving churches in Scotland working together on ecumenical activities. We note that Martin Burnell is now a Trustee for ACTS. We are sorry to see that the future direction is unclear. We uphold Martin and other Friends involved in these discussions as the various options are explored. We understand that the subject will be on the agenda for GM in June.

#### **5. Update on Treasurers forum and Trustee Clerks forum**

Regular meetings of these informal groups have continued. Katrina and Robin report that they provide useful occasions for exchange of information and ideas across the Area Meetings.

#### **6. Date of next regular meeting**

- Tues 15 Oct, 7.30 pm (to consider budget for 2025).

Additional meetings will be arranged as required.

Robin Waterston, Clerk