

Minutes of the Council Meeting
24 April 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present

Jim Lyon
Janet Wootton

Suzanne Nockels
Peter Butler
John Bentham
May-Kane Logan
Margaret McGuinness
Chris Gillham
Craig James
Eric Fenwick
Betty Bentham
Hilary Biggin
Chris Damp
Caroline Stott
Judi Holloway

Representing

Chair
Immediate Past
President
President Elect
Chair of F&SS Comm.
Chair of CS Comm.
CF Scotland
CF Scotland
CF Wales
CF Wales
Eastern
North East
North West Midlands
South East
South West
South West Midlands

Participant Observers

Yvonne Campbell
Mark Tucker

Gary Baker
Bill Bentham
Ruth Leeming
Tom Wilson

General Secretary
Operations Manager/
CFL Company
Financial Controller
Assembly Rep.
Assembly Rep
Chair Elect CF
Scotland

Apologies

Mark Taylor
East Midlands

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair of Council, Jim Lyon welcomed all to the meeting.

Especially welcoming Tom Wilson, Chair Elect for CF in Scotland as Participating Observer and Janet Wootton attending her last meeting as Immediate Past President.

2. Apologies Were noted as above.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

(Paper B & B1)

February 2021 (Paper B)

Poll 1

- 1. Do you agree the minutes of the meeting in February 2021 as a true record of that meeting?**

Decision: The minutes from the meeting held in February 2021 were accepted as accurate and correct.

November 2020 (Paper B1)

- 2. Do you agree the minutes of the meeting in November 2020 as a true record of that meeting?**

Decision: The minutes from the meeting held in November 2020 were accepted as accurate and correct.

4. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)

4.1 Gift of Grace (Feb 2021, Item 4)

There are still a few churches submitting the Affiliation Waiver forms, the fund is now in a minus figure however, CWM have granted another £25k, discussion needs to take place as to how this is to be best used at our next meeting.

4.2 Grants for Travel costs (November 2020 item 4)

This item was to consider if grants could be made available for travelling costs of Ministers & students attending Congregational Federation Events (inc. CIPT)

Poll 2

- 1. Do you support the proposal that grants be made available for the travelling costs of Ministers and Students attending Congregational Federation Events (inc. CIPT)?**

Decision: The proposal was agreed in principle.

Action: A structure and process for payments be produced including a safeguard against duplication of payments. General Secretary to work with Finance on this.

Timescale: Report back to next meeting July 2021.

4.3 Representatives (November 2020 item 5)

Representatives are being sought for:

- Robinson Charity Board.
- Christian Aid
- World Day of Prayer (England & Wales).

4.4 Christian Aid Partnership (November 2020 page 3 item 5)

USAID have pulled out of the joint funding of the project. The General Secretary is waiting to hear what will happen to the funds already raised.

CA suggest transferring the CF partnership funding to the Covid19 vaccination program. This will be discussed later in the meeting (Item 12).

Post meeting update – Christian Aid have confirmed we can still send the money raised for the Kenya appeal

4.5 50th Anniversary of CF (November 2020 item 10)

A working group has been formed and plans are coming into place. Action plan will be shared at the next meeting.

5. Notification of Any other Business

None.

6. Finance & Support Services (Papers C, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6)

Minutes of Meeting 17th April 2021 (Paper C)

Council received the minutes of the meeting of FSSC held on 17th April 2021.

An application to affiliate to CF has been received from Law CC action and decision was deferred to section 10 as both are connected.

FSSC recommend that more information is sought from the church.

Following much discussion of the above papers the following were polled.

Poll 3

1. CF Accounts and Budgets (Paper C1)

Do you approve the CF Accounts and Budgets?

Council approved the CF Accounts and Budgets.

2. CF Balance Sheet (Paper C2)

Do you approve the CF Balance Sheet?

Council approved the CF Balance Sheet.

3. CF Statutory Accounts (Paper C3)

Do you approve the CF Statutory Accounts?

Council approved the CF Statutory Accounts.

4. Financial Strategy (Paper C4)

Do you approve the CF Financial Strategy subject to decisions which may be made by Council and the board of CFL in the current review process?

Council approved the CF Financial Strategy subject to decisions that may be made in the current review process,

Assembly Report (Paper C5)

For information.

Audit Findings (Paper C6)

For information.

7. Church Support Committee

(Paper D)

Chair of Church support Committee brought for the approval of Council two Impact Grant applications and two names to be approved for Accreditation as Tutor.

Poll 4.

1. Do you approve a grant to Oakham church of £12000 (£4000 per year over three years) for the expenses of two new part-time ministers?

Council approved the payment of the Impact Grant as above.

2. **Do you approve a grant to Stambourne church of £15000 (£5000 per year over three years) to support the employment of for the expenses of a Community Worker supporting vulnerable people within the local community?**

Council approved the payment of the Impact Grant as above.

3. **Do you agree to approve James Gregory to be nationally accredited as Tutor?**

Council approved James Gregory as nationally accredited Tutor.

4. **Do you agree to approve Sue Raynor to be nationally accredited as Tutor?**

Council approved Sue Raynor as nationally accredited Tutor.

5. Minutes of Meeting 20th March 2021

Council received the CSC Minutes of March 2021

8. Assembly Update (8 May 2021)

The online Assembly is almost ready to go! The platform has been designed and nearly 100 people have registered for the event.

Most sections for the event have been recorded but some sections will be live including report from Chair of Council and the Presidents Induction.

The Children and Youth Assembly will be live on the Friday 5-6pm (7th May 2021).

9. Yearbook/Refresh Feedback (including proof reading)

The General Secretary acknowledged that there had been a few teething problems and that she has replied to all comments that she has received, and the issues this year will be resolved in future.

It was noted that the Yearbook is made from sustainable sources and is fully recyclable.

General Secretary recommended that future publications have a team of proof-readers.

Action: General Secretary to have conversations with the URC & UWI asking how they get GDPR permissions for information to appear in their Yearbook.

Decision: every Council Member check their section of the yearbook prior to publication.

Decision: Contact phone numbers need to be included alongside email addresses.

10. Correspondence from Malcolm Muir

(Paper E)

There was an open discussion regarding the letter and the clear view of Council was that a solution to the situation in Scotland can only be found through some

form of agreement between CFS and the other churches in Scotland. Delegates from Scotland indicated that they had previously offered to participate in mediated talks but this offer had not been taken up. The Chair and General Secretary offered to meet with both parties with the goal of facilitating mediated talks, and offering to be mediators.

Note; It was noted that the CF in Scotland is, in common with the CF in Wales a national association in its own right and as such entitled to representation on the council of the CF whereas in England, representation on Council applied to each geographical Area Association.

Poll 5.

- 1. Do you agree that the General Secretary and Chair of Council meet with all parties in Scotland to seek a level of reconciliation and resolution to the issues relating to representation of churches in Scotland?**

Decision: Council agreed that General Secretary and Chair of Council reply to the communication seeking a meeting as above.

11. Operating Deficit/Strategy

Chair of Council is to set up another meeting after Assembly to focus on the operating deficit and the strategy. A Doodle Poll for best dates of when to meet will be taken soon.

Written thoughts, comments and ideas were welcomed by the Chair, especially from any who are soon to finish their term on Council.

12. A.O.B.

Christian Aid (change to partnership)

Decision: Council agreed unanimously to move the partnership to the CA Covid fund.

12. Close in prayer

Janet closed the meeting with a reading from Job 28, followed by a short reflection and a prayer from "Constance" written by Karen Campbell.