

Minutes of the Council Meeting
25th April 2020
Held by Zoom

Present

Jim Lyon
Janet Wootton
Suzanne Nockels
Martin Spain
Peter Butler
John Bentham
May-Kane Logan
Margaret McGuinness
Gerry Simonis
Chris Gillham
Jill Stephens
Eric Fenwick
Mark Taylor
Betty Bentham
Foday Kamara

Representing

Chair
President
President Elect
Prev. Past President
Chair of F&SS Comm.
Chair of M & S Comm.
CF Scotland
CF Scotland
CF Scotland
CF Wales
CF Wales
Eastern
East Midlands
North East
North West

Hilary Biggin
Chris Damp
Caroline Stott
Judi Holloway

North West Midlands
South East
South West
South West Midlands

Participant Observers

Bill Bentham
Ruth Leeming
Yvonne Campbell
Mark Tucker

Assembly Rep
Assembly Rep
General Secretary
Operations Manager/
CFL Company
Minutes

Sam Coleman

Apologies

Saturday 25th April 2020

This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the Covid19 pandemic.

The meeting opened with worship and prayer led by the President and President Elect. This included readings from Psalm 104, John 7 and Revelations 22.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Jim Lyon welcomed all to the meeting.
Council agreed to make decisions via Zoom polling.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies received for this meeting: it was noted that Assembly Rep. Roo MacRae had not joined the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meetings

3.1 November 2019

(Paper B1)

The minutes from the meeting held in November 2019 were accepted as accurate and correct.

3.2 January 2020

(Paper B2)

The minutes from the meeting held in January 2020 were accepted as accurate and correct.

4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the meeting)

4.1 Item 8.3.1 from November 2019

General Secretary has visited Swansea All Nations Church with the CF Wales Secretary; the Church have paid a contribution towards their affiliation fee.

4.2 Item 8.3.2 from November 2019

General Secretary wrote to Gloucester St Mary's in January 2020 but has not received a response.

4.3 North West Midlands rep. asked for clarification on whether Participant Observers were voting members of Council.

Participant Observers do not have voting rights (Trustees only) however their views are sought and welcome.

5. Governance in the Current Environment

With the May Assembly having been cancelled the following needed to be considered: -

Items that are usually agreed/approved at Assembly, Annual Accounts, Review of 2019, Accreditation Process, Business/Committee Meetings, President Process, New Churches, Ratification by Assembly of Chairs.

5.1 Proposal:

- a) There be no Assembly in 2020, the next Assembly being May 2021.
- b) Still produce a review of 2019 for churches & members like the usual Assembly review.
- c) Janet to move from being President to Immediate Past President, Suzanne remain President Elect and both continue to work together to keep resourcing the churches.

Whilst discussing these proposals the possibility of a virtual Assembly (large celebration) for all to join in October 2020 was considered along with Janet remaining President for a further year, where Martin fit into the President Group (Martin explained that he had already continued for an extra year and felt it was time to step back).

5.2 Poll:

1. Do you agree that we cancel Assembly 2020 and meet in May 2021?
2. Do you agree that, as an exception for 2020, accreditations are finalised by council without ratification by assembly?
3. Do you agree that, as an exception for 2020, new churches are admitted into membership on the basis of council agreement without ratification by assembly?
4. Do you agree that for the period from 9th May 2020 to the date of Assembly in 2021 there will not be a president. The current president will be past president, and the president elect will remain as president elect. Both will support churches.
(An alternative proposal was made by Christopher Gilham for Janet Wootton to remain as president for an additional year, this was not to put to the vote).

All points polled were agreed by majority vote

5.3 Chair of Council is normally ratified by Assembly for a 3-year term; Council formally agreed Jim Lyon as Chair of Council and for this to be ratified at Assembly 2021.

5.4 Note: anything that would have normally been brought to Assembly 2020 is to be forwarded to Assembly 2021.

6. Finance & Support Services

(Papers C1-6)

Minutes of Meeting 18th April

The minutes of the meeting of FSSC on 18.04.2020 were received by Council.

6.1 Poll Questions

1. Do you agree to the FSSC recommendation that CF make no new capital expenditure, subject to review by FSSC in October and Council in November?
2. Do you agree to the FSSC recommendation that That CF make no Impact Grants at this time apart from the Kingswood application? (to be considered under CSC topic), subject to review by FSSC in October and Council in November.
3. Do you agree to the FSSC recommendation "That expenditure savings being made due to current situation is (are) used to offset the effects to the fall of income, as opposed to being re-diverted and spent elsewhere? Subject to review in October/November.
4. Do you agree to ratify the CF accounts for the year 2019?

All points polled were agreed by majority vote

CF Ltd Accounts (Paper D) recorded separately

7. Church Support Committee

(Paper E)

Minutes of Meeting 18th April

The minutes of the CSC meeting of 18.04.2020 were received by Council.

7.1 The Christian Aid project total is currently £8501 – the target being £12k; Yvonne will be contacting CA to discuss a way forward in view of cancelled Assembly and churches being closed.

Eric Fenwick is the new Chair of the Communications Group.

The new Church Support Worker, Maria, will be starting in mid-June.

7.2 Poll Questions

1. Do you agree to welcome Fritchley Congregational Church into membership?
2. Do you agree to welcome Nordelph Congregational Church into membership?

3. Do you agree to award the impact grant for the Kingswood Youth Project?
4. Do you agree Council should endorse the Fresh Expressions report with the understanding this is not approving a new budget?
5. Do you agree to the accreditation of Anna Lachowski as a Minister?
6. Do you agree to the accreditation of Geoff Cable as a Minister?
7. Do you agree to the accreditation of Gerry Simonis as a Minister?
8. Do you agree to the accreditation of Michael Rolton as a Minister?
9. Do you agree to the accreditation of Caroline Stott as a Minister?

7.2.1 & 7.1.2 Council agreed unanimously to welcome the new Churches at Fritchley & Nordelph into membership.

7.2.3 Council agreed to award the Impact Grant to Kingswood of £20k over 3 years. An annual report is required from the church prior to the next instalment being issued.

7.2.4 Fresh Expressions Working Group Report (Paper E1)

Following much discussion Council agreed to endorse the report, while not committing to any new budget at this time. Budget & financing for Fresh Expressions to be discussed at future meetings as required.

7.2.5 to 7.2.9 Council agreed that Anna Lachowski, Geoff Cable, Gerry Simonis, Michael Rolton & Caroline Stott are accepted to the Accredited Roll as Minister by majority vote – Gerry Simonis & Caroline Stott expressed an interest and abstained.

7.2.10 Memorial Hall Trust are seeking a new trustee with Financial & Librarian skills preferred.

8. Ad Hoc Council Meetings

Council agreed unanimously in principle to online extraordinary meetings being called if needed.

9. Consultation Process

Chair of Council has received responses from 6 churches. Most churches are currently unable to discuss due to the Covid19 restrictions. Regrettably, the process is on hold.

Decision

Chair of Council will write to churches and propose a new timetable for when church meetings can recommence. It may be appropriate to include information about custodian trusteeship at this time.

10. Chair thanked all and closed the meeting in prayer.

