

Friends School Saffron Walden General Meeting.

To Clerks and Representatives of Area Meetings

Dear Friends

We send you the minutes of the FSSW General Meeting held last November, and remind you that the next meeting will be held on November 21st, 2015. We hope that your Area Meeting will appoint representatives in good time and send their names and contact details to Tessa Brown, the Assistant Clerk. It is helpful if Friends can be appointed for three years so that it is easier to maintain communication with them. Of course, all Friends are welcome at the GM whether or not they are an appointed representative.

You will see from minutes 5 and 7 that the General Meeting is beginning to look at its own operation. It is about ten years since the General Meeting took over from London and Middlesex General Meeting, supported by AMs within reach of the school who committed themselves to attendance and support. During that time, charity law has developed, and we have been able to learn from experience. It is therefore time to see whether our constitution is fit for purpose and if necessary amend it. A group appointed by minute 5 and referred to in minute 7 has started work. There is room for another Friend from an AM on the group: should you wish to nominate a Friend please send their name and contact details to the clerk, Janet Scott.

The group will make a preliminary report to the next General Meeting in order to take the advice of the GM, and a Special Meeting to propose any changes will be held in 2016.

You will see from the minutes that this move has arisen from two causes. The first is that the procedure for nominations is cumbersome, using both a Governors' committee and a GM committee. This is complicated by the supposed size of the GM nominations committee and its inability to meet. We are working on a more efficient system. We shall still require a Nominations Clerk and Janet Scott would be happy to receive suggestions from AMs about Friends suitable for appointment.

The second issue that concerns us is the small attendance at the meeting. Some of the meetings which ten years ago committed themselves to this meeting had no representatives present. We therefore need to ask your meeting to explore your level of commitment. Are you able and willing to undertake the responsibility, which the GM has, for the oversight of the school?

The Clerks hope that you will feel able to renew your commitment to the support of the school through the right ordering of the governance procedures of which the GM is a part. We are sending you the financial report of the school which was not available at our meeting in November.

The school aims to put into practice Quaker values in education. The task of the GM is to support and encourage this for the flourishing of the pupils there.

Janet Scott.
Clerk of General Meeting.
jrs39@cam.ac.uk

Tessa Brown
Assistant Clerk of General Meeting
tessa.brown3@btinternet.com