

THE MACFARLANE TRUST

MINUTES of a meeting of the Trustees held at the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC4, on Tuesday 29 March 1988 at 3 pm

Present: The Revd A J Tanner, Dr P Jones, N Guy, S Taylor, A Palmer, C Grinsted, C Leitch and C Knight.
In attendance: Dr R Moore, DHSS; D Watters, The Haemophilia Society.

AGENDA

- 88.1 Welcome and Introduction
- 88.2 Election of Chairperson
- 88.3 Bank Mandate
- 88.4 Administration
- 88.5 Life Insurance/Mortgage Protection
- 88.6 Investment Policy
- 88.7 Allocation Policy
- 88.8 Any Other Business
- 88.9 Date of Future Meetings

- 88.1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** The Revd Alan Tanner, as Chairman of the Haemophilia Society, welcomed and introduced the Trustees who were present and conveyed the apologies of Mr Stevens and Mrs Demmery.
- 88.2 **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:** This part of the meeting was chaired by Mr Watters, General Secretary of the Haemophilia Society, who invited nominations. Mr Taylor proposed that the Revd Alan Tanner be elected Chairman and this was seconded by Mr Grinsted. There being no other nominations the Revd Alan Tanner was declared Chairman and he thanked the Trustees for their confidence.
- 88.3 **BANK MANDATE:** It was reported by the Chairman that the £10m had been received from the Department and placed with the National Westminster Bank plc as an interim measure on a seven-day basis. It was resolved that any two of the following five signatories be empowered to sign on behalf of the Trustees: The Revd Alan Tanner, Mr Knight, Mr Taylor, Mr Grinsted and Mr Watters. This had been proposed by Mrs Guy, seconded by Dr Jones and agreed unanimously.
- 88.4 **ADMINISTRATION:**
 - (i) **Funding - Section 64:** The General Secretary outlined the promise made in the House by the Minister of Health that the Trust would have access to additional funding to sponsor the administrative costs of the Trust. Accordingly he had made a provisional application under Section 64 of the Social Security Act for funding in the total of some £127,000. Dr Moore observed that there would be difficulty in meeting this amount in full in view of the lateness of our application - the nominal closing date being in September. It was agreed that Mr Watters should circulate copies of the provisional application to Trustees for further consideration at the next meeting.

- (ii) **Appointment of staff:** It was agreed that those who had suggestions to make regarding avenues of approach should communicate them to the Chairman through Mr Watters. REACH and The Officers' Association were mentioned. It was agreed that the Chairman should draft a Job Description for the Administrator in conjunction with Mr Palmer and the General Secretary of the Haemophilia Society and that of Social Worker in conjunction with Mrs Leitch and Mr Watters.
- (iii) **Office premises:** It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Watters look into this and report at the next meeting. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the future of the office address it was agreed that a PO Box be established for the receipt of mail.
- (iv) **Trustees expenses:** This item appeared to the agenda merely to confirm that Trustees could claim reasonable expenses in connection with their duties as Trustees.

88.5 **LIFE INSURANCE/MORTGAGE PROTECTION:** The Chairman reported that at one of the preliminary meetings with the Secretary of state for Social Services assistance had been promised with exploration of the above topics. Dr Moore reported that while the AIDS Unit and he were making enquiries about possible future provision it was his view that the Trustees themselves were in a position of considerable power for negotiation.

It was agreed that this formed the crux of the future allocation policy of the Trust and the Chairman undertook to pursue the question further with Mr Stevens.

88.6 **INVESTMENT POLICY:** It was quickly established that this would be in the hands of Mr Grinsted, assisted by Mr Stevens and those they wished to enlist as advisors. Mr Grinsted hoped to be able to make a presentation at the next meeting and may bring along an advisor for that purpose.

88.7 **ALLOCATION POLICY:** In introducing this discussion the Chairman stressed the importance of knowing how much had to be reserved for items such as insurance and mortgage protection.

At the invitation of Mr Taylor, the General Secretary of the Haemophilia Society outlined grants made in the interim by the Society in order to ensure that the wishes of the Secretary of State were carried out by making monies available for the urgent relief of poverty. A total of some £25,000 had been paid on items such as heating appliances, bills arising from heating costs, washing and drying machines, cookers, blenders, microwaves, holidays, and in one exceptional case a grant to enable a motor car to be purchased. All those applications had arisen directly from needs incurred as a result of HIV infection.

Mr Knight felt that the historic course of grant seeking would not necessarily predict future demand.

Dr Jones outlined the medical position and agreed to summarise the content of his report in written format for circulation to Trustees. The General Secretary of the Haemophilia Society will also circulate copies of a rapid-response socio-economic survey conducted by the Society in co-operation with Haemophilia Centre Directors.

Mrs Leitch was concerned about changes in the DHSS legislation and the effect that would have on potential claimants against the Trust: while many had been able to secure additional payments prior to the changes many others would not be so fortunate. She also felt some concern about the Trust's funds in relation to the Social Fund since that was not mentioned in the Regulations being laid before the House in relation to the Macfarlane Trust. Mr Palmer undertook to look into that matter and report to the next meeting of the Trustees.

Mr Knight felt that we should keep in mind the usefulness of small, regular payments, to supplement peoples' incomes - especially those whose regular income resources were limited. He also felt that the Trustees should not fall into the trap of being tied down by campaigning statements which had served their day.

Questions arose regarding a level of equal distribution to those people with haemophilia who had come into contact with the virus. This position had been raised by the General Secretary of the Haemophilia Society with the solicitors and their reply was circulated. Mr Paisner made it very clear in that reply that equal distributions which failed to take account of personal circumstances did not fall within the terms of the Charities Act 1960 and could not therefore take place. This situation was accepted and regret was expressed at this limitation.

Dr Jones raised the question of a register of potential applicants and this issue was discussed. It was resolved that the only way to do this and preserve individual confidentiality was to give everyone the opportunity to register an interest and let them know clearly that by so doing they would be giving permission for the relevant facts to be checked by their Centre Director.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chairman asked the General Secretary to set down a proposal for consideration by the Trustees at their next meeting.

Mr Palmer stressed the importance of looking at each case individually and it was noted that this was the only way to meet the 'needs' to which the Minister for Health had referred in the House on more than one occasion.

88.08 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The General Secretary sought repayment from the Trustees of the amount expended on those who fell within the terms of the Trust. It was agreed that an application, outlining the purpose of each grant, be considered at the next meeting of the Trustees.

88.9 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:** It was agreed that the Trustees would meet again on:

12 April 1988 at 11 am

9 May 1988 at 2 pm

Venue to be announced in respect of both dates.

Approved as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting

GRO-C: Alan Tanner

Date: