

THE MACFARLANE TRUST

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 26 January 2015

PART B

738.15 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

739.15 Matters arising from the minutes other than those itemised separately on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

740.15 Political developments

The board considered a draft response to the APPG Inquiry report, which it was intended should be sent on behalf of all 5 Alliance House organisations. JB had prepared the draft and it had now been signed off by the Chairs of the other organisations.

RE invited comments regarding the actual report. MG felt that the Inquiry had been flawed from the outset. He observed that the beneficiary community did not seem to have commented on it on the various campaign websites, Facebook pages etc. This was felt to be due to the fact the conclusions and recommendations in the report were not what campaigners had wanted. In particular, the report highlighted a 65% positive/neutral response by beneficiaries in relation to the Alliance House organisations, and the report had not recommended that the Alliance House entities be abolished. The report had also acknowledged that a lot of the criticisms made of the organisations were due to way that they had been structured and funded. AM felt that the report was as good as could have been expected in the circumstances.

With regard to the response to the report, it was agreed that this should be sent, even though a response had not been requested, as this demonstrated our ongoing engagement. It was agreed that the paragraph in the main letter regarding factual inaccuracies should be amended. It was noted that the letter would be copied to the Minister, Alistair Burt MP, and DH officials.

RE advised that the organisations, including MFT, were pressing for meeting with the Minister, and it was understood that officials were trying to arrange this. It was also agreed to try to set up a meeting with Alistair Burt MP.

The board discussed the issue of a possible merger of the 3 charities. JB felt that there were efficiencies to be achieved from not having to service the governance requirements of multiple organisations (boards, subcommittees, audits etc), and that merger would be an opportunity to address some of the anomalies in the differences in support which the charities provided. The board confirmed that it would not oppose a merger in principle, subject to it being done with the necessary financial resources to enable it to have positive outcomes. The board confirmed that it did not have a position in relation to the recommendations for a public apology from the Prime Minister, or in relation to the question of a final settlement.

741.15

Board composition

i) Resignation of GRO-A

RE advised that he and JB would discuss with the Chief Executive of the Haemophilia Society when they met on 29 January 2015 the process for appointing another Haemophilia Society appointed trustee.

ii) Patrick Spellman

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Alliance House charities following the publication of the APPG report, it was agreed that it was not opportune to recruit new MFT trustees at this time. Patrick Spellman, whose term of office was due to end on 31 January 2015, therefore agreed to continue in office for up to a further 2 years.

iii) Chairmanship

RE left the room for the duration of this item. RE's term of office as Chair was due to expire in April 2015, and his term of office as trustee in November 2015. Because of the uncertainty surround the future of the Alliance House charities, the board agreed by a majority vote to extend RE's term of office as Chair until November 2015. The board agreed to revisit the situation at its July meeting, when there might be greater clarity about the future, with a view to deciding whether it was necessary to recruit a new Chair to take over from November. The board confirmed that it would also be willing to consider appointing a Chair from existing trustees.

742.15

Staffing matters

The board discussed staffing and salary matters in the absence of staff.

743.15

Any other confidential business

There was no other confidential business.