

## **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY PENSION SCHEME**

### **MINUTES OF THE FUND TRUSTEE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 17:30 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

#### **Attendees:**

Murdo Fraser MSP (Trustee and Chair)  
Gordon MacDonald MSP (Trustee)  
Mark Ballard (Trustee)  
Dawn Gibbons (Secretariat, SPCB Pay and Pensions Office)  
Memet Pekacar (GAD)  
Chris Ward (GAD)  
Nam Le (GAD)  
Catriona McCallum (Solicitors Office)

#### **Item 1: Attendance/apologies**

1. Apologies were noted for Pauline McNeill MSP

#### **Item 2: Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022 were formally agreed.

#### **Item 3: Previous matters arising**

3. Memet advised Trustees that a letter had been issued to Corporate Body regarding contribution rates, seeking approval for contribution rate to be increased by 0.8% each year until the next valuation in 2025. This will be tabled at SPCB meeting in April 2023.

#### **Item 4: Investment update**

4. Chris provided an update on fund performance for Q4 2022. There has been some recovery of assets during this quarter, but over the year to end of Q4 2022 all three of the Scheme's funds experienced losses. Year to date returns are positive, but markets are expected to remain volatile for the next few years. It is pleasing that Baillie Gifford as fund manager is staying true to their philosophy of investing for the long term and has not made rash decisions to try and deal with the volatility, but 2022's losses have been exacerbated due to their investment philosophy pervading across all three funds. This concentration risk does not need to be urgently addressed but should be considered as part of the investment review.

Chris provided an update from Baillie Gifford on the Global Stewardship Fund which will be renamed the Baillie Gifford Sustainable Growth Fund from 31

March 2023. The fund is evolving its processes and resourcing, and Trustees should consider a review on how the fund manager implements environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors as part of the investment review later this year.

**AP: GAD to circulate analysis of investment options, with comparison with other schemes, including ESG factors, ahead of June Trustee meeting**

**Item 7: Any other business**

7. Trustees approved extension of SPPA contract as scheme administrator

**Item 8: Date of next meeting**

8. Date for next meeting set as Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023