

16 Moreton Avenue, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2ET

22 December 2011

Dr FH King
Computer Laboratory,
William Gates Bldg
J J Thomson Ave
CAMBRIDGE CB3 0FD

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Dear Frank,

You will know that for some time now I have come to the view that over only a few months, the council has managed to some degree or another to ignore charity law, charity guidance, specified good practice, our public benefit statement and even the society's constitution. It is as if an ethical myopia has crept into the proceedings of our council meetings.

There is a right in law of trustees to be informed, yet despite requests from more than one trustee the complaints said to have been made by Doug and others have still not been circulated to trustees. Furthermore, trustees have been asked to approve contact and settlement over the Doug issue without full information, let alone agreement as to what would be (and thereafter has been) offered and trustees have by collective responsibility thereby been committed to solutions on which they have received inadequate detail.

Council meetings have been prolonged by discussions that should have been referred to a subcommittee; even to the extent that actions from the previous meeting have not been reviewed as they should. Decisions have been handed down to trustees rather than placed for approval before the whole council as required by the constitution. The society has even written to a school suggesting, incorrectly, that better advice from us might somehow be contingent on their taking out society membership. It seems to me that in the ways that we have decided not to print our already filed public benefit statement in the Bulletin or to make no breakdown of the actual state of the reserves in our annual report we are becoming far too much concerned to control appearances rather than correctly to report facts.

This latter issue especially concerns me since after the confirmation that our 2009 annual report was non-compliant, I was specifically asked by the then council to negotiate with the CC to ensure that compliance would be achieved through an Addendum. In doing this we agreed that I should give an assurance to the CC that we had a study in progress to give a simple breakdown on restricted and unrestricted reserves. For this formal commitment to be abandoned at the last Council Meeting without any prior consultation with the CC, and now with its associated minute still unresolved, leaves me in a position which is frankly unacceptable.

The advice I have taken on the matter is unequivocal: no trustee unhappy on ethical grounds with any charity issue should feel required to remain in post. As it stands and even regardless of any other issues I

might have, I cannot in all conscience allow my name to be associated with another annual report that fails to recognise the correct reserves position. Rather than leave me to be a dissenting vote when formal approval has to be given next year to the 2011 report, I believe it to be proper for me to resign as a trustee now. Accordingly, under clause 8d of our Constitution and with immediate effect, I wish to resign from my position as a trustee of The British Sundial Society.

I shall of course continue until the next AGM with all of my presently committed work for the society; most notably the 2012 conference organisation, and I hope thereafter to continue to be of benefit to the society from a position outside the council/specialists arena.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Powers', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Powers