

Minutes of Central England Quakers
Meeting for Church Affairs
Held at Bull Street Quaker Meeting House
on 9th March 2019

Clerk: Cathy Khurana

Assistant clerk: Stella Roberts

Elders on duty: Wendy Burnett, John Cockcroft

2019.016 Opening Minute

Our meeting began with a period of silent worship during which we remembered those Friends who have died since our last meeting.

We also heard read to us paragraph 19.28 of Quaker Faith and Practice:

The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another, though the divers liveries they wear here makes them strangers. This world is a form; our bodies are forms; and no visible acts of devotion can be without forms. But yet the less form in religion the better, since God is a Spirit; for the more mental our worship, the more adequate to the nature of God; the more silent, the more suitable to the language of a Spirit. William Penn, 1693.

2019.017 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

B&R BOU BUL COT COV EDG HAL KIN SEL SOL STO SUT WAL WAR

The clerks have given permission for the following attenders to join us today:

Lil Beag (BGR)	Ian Taylor (SUT)	Paul Lynch (SEL)
Terry Stanley (BUL)	Mary Mather (WAL)	
John Ironside (SEL)	Claire Jones (EDG)	

We also welcome Berry Dicker, John Nicholls, David Belcher, Michelle Gerard, Win Sutton and John Babb from Staffordshire AM, and Don Stubbings from South East Scotland Area Meeting.

2019.018 Membership Matters

a) Deaths

We record the death of John Roylance (BUL) on 6th February 2019, aged 88.

We record the death of Anne Burkett (COV) on 26th February 2019, aged 93.

b) Applications for Membership

We have received applications for membership from Marina Manassei, an attender at Stourbridge LM; from Kate Panagamuwa, an attender at Cotteridge LM; from Lin Barrington, an attender at Selly Oak LM; and from Neil Souter, an attender at Edgbaston LM.

We ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors for Marina, Kate, Lin and Neil.

c) Terminations

Contact has been lost with the following Friends and their addresses are not known or they have not responded to any communications:

Nigel Bertoli (BUL); Caryn Hibbert (BUL); Jayne Collier (BUL); Philippa Moran (BUL).

We therefore terminate their membership under QF&P 11.30a and 11.30b.

d) Resignation

We accept the resignation of Margaret Eardley (WAR) and ask the clerk to write to her.

e) Transfer In

- Stuart Gallagher (STO) from Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting.

f) Journey into Membership

We have received the record of the visit made to Sanjive Mahandru (EDG) on his application for membership and it has been read to us. We welcome Sanjive into membership of the Religious Society of Friends and Central England Quakers. We ask the clerk to write to him and his visitors to welcome him.

2019.019 West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (WMQPEP) Peacemakers: future vision

At our meeting in January we agreed to return to explore the direction of work and shape of Peacemakers, as recorded in minute CEQ/2019.005.

Also in our papers today, we have a record of the discussion at WMQPEP Management Committee held on 24.01.2019; and a paper from Sara Hagel, director of WMQPEP, 'Vision for WMQPEP', setting out a possible innovation strategy.

We have heard from many Friends during our discernment of this matter and the overwhelming feeling of the meeting is that we wish to support and encourage Peacemakers in pursuing the vision for expanding their work into the community.

It is also important to Central England Quakers that the work in schools should continue, though we realise that school budgets are stretched and we may have to look at more financial support for this area of Peacemakers work.

The West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project is a long-established branch of Central England Quakers: its work and achievements are valued and supported by individual Friends and the Area Meeting, and indeed are nationally recognised. We want to be sure that the Quaker values and ethos of the organisation remain strong.

The erosion of youth services and the rise in knife crime are areas where Peacemakers can make a difference. We feel though that it is important to ensure the work remains local, to build on and use effectively the skills and knowledge of the Peacemakers staff.

We ask the WMQPEP Management Committee to consider this in more detail and bring a costed proposal to a future Area Meeting.

2019.020 Community Justice Group Terms of Reference

We have received the reviewed TOR from our Community Justice Group, but we find some inconsistencies in the document, and ask the CJG to look at it again. In particular, is it a Group or a Committee? And is it really necessary to limit the number of Friends who may be involved?

2019.021 Quaker Christmas Parcels Report

We have received a written report from QCP committee and John Ironside has spoken to it.

We are well aware of the need for this project and are pleased to hear that Notts and Derby Area Meeting are interested in setting up a similar scheme.

We thank John for speaking to us today, the committee for its work, and all those who took part in the annual parcel packing sessions.

2019.022 Central England Quakers Newsletter

On behalf of Communications Committee Cathy Khurana has introduced us to the latest edition of a CEQ newsletter – *News from the Centre*. Paper copies will be sent to all our Local Meetings, it is available by email, and via the CEQ website. (www.centralenglandquakers.org.uk)

We hope Friends will engage with this new publication and share it widely. Communications Committee intends to publish *News from the Centre* 3 or 4 times a year, with the next edition planned for July.

2019.023 Minute Received / Post Truth World

We have received a minute from Warwick LM responding to the concern of the Post Truth World. (Minute CEQ 2018.108 (October) refers.)

This minute (from Warwick LM) challenges us as individuals and as an organisation to reconsider how we live our testimony to truth and integrity. Living the truth involves hard work, and vigilance in checking such details as, Is the tea/coffee Fairtrade? As Quakers we need to be able to hold different truths in balance, to speak the truth in love. If we deserve our reputation for being truthful in our own lives it is a foundation for all that we do.

2019.024 Meeting for Sufferings Report

We have received a report on Meeting for Sufferings held on 2nd February and Cathy Khurana has spoken to it and answered questions. The report is filed.

(Visit www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes for further information, including a list of organisations engaged in the 'Post – truth' concern)

2019.025 Nominations and Appointments

Nominations committee suggests the following:

- Kris Turner (WAR) to serve another triennium on Property Committee from March 2019 to March 2022.
- Elaine Smith (EDG) to serve one year on Old Peoples Fund Trust from March 2019 to Dec 2019.
- Claire Bowman (BOU) to serve another triennium on Communications Committee from March 2019 to March 2022.
- Miriam Branson (STO) to serve on the Records Advisory Committee – (but NOT as an AM Trustee) from May 2019 to May 2022.
- Mary Mather (WAL) to serve on West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project from March 2019 to March 2022.
- Rowland Dale (SEL) to serve on West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project from March 2019 to March 2022.

Staffordshire Area Meeting suggest:

- John Babb (WOL) to serve another triennium on the CEQAM Peace Committee until January 2022.

We appoint these Friends accordingly.

Release from Service

We have received the following requests for release from service:

- Marian Millington (WAR) from service on the Community Justice Group;
- Peter Brittain (WAL) from service on the CEQ AM Property Committee;
- Hilary Topp (COT) as the CEQ representative to West Midlands Churches Further Education Council;
- Allison Rogers (NIM) from service on West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project from May 2019.

We release these Friends and thank them for their service.

2019.026 CEQ Trustees Report 2018

Judith Jenner, clerk to CEQ Trustees, has presented the 2018 report of the work of our trustees.

Judith reminded us that our Meetings for Worship are the primary purpose of Central England Quakers, but can only take place so often, so regularly, so lovingly because we have people working quietly in the background – these are our Trustees.

The report is comprehensive and informative, explaining why we have trustees, who they are and what they do on our behalf to ensure CEQ is efficient, effective, and compliant with charity law. The work of trustees is varied – it covers finance, employment, property, keeping our Quaker records, governance, and safeguarding – but we understand that no-one needs to be an expert in every aspect of the work, and that the trustee service committees (finance, employment, property, governance, and records advisory) involve many other Friends. The work of trustees is a shared commitment, built on trust, and everyone is able to learn new things.

We commend the report to Friends and hope it will be shared in our Local Meetings. The report is filed. We thank Judith for the report and for speaking to it today, and all our Trustees for the work they do on our behalf.

2019.027 Tabular Statement

We have received the Tabular Statement for 2018 which records the number of Friends, Attenders and children in each of our Local Meetings. We thank David Gough and David Brayley-Willmetts for their work in producing the Tabular Statement.

2019.028 Request for a Travelling Minute/Letter of Introduction

Elaine Smith (EDG) and Sue Jenkins (COT) are planning a sponsored walk along the Thames Path to raise money for and increase awareness of the difficulties asylum seekers face upon entering the UK. They hope to involve other Friends, and to visit Meetings that are close to the path.

We are happy for our clerks to write a letter of introduction and we wish to express our support for this venture.

2019.029 Thanks and Next Meeting

We thank Bull Street for hosting Area Meeting today. We meet again at Hall Green QMH on Wednesday 10th April, from 6.0 – 9.0pm.

Cathy Khurana

Clerk this time

Deferred until next meeting: The Unattached List