

**Central England Quakers**  
**Meeting for Church Affairs**  
**Held at Hall Green Quaker Meeting House**  
**On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Clerk: Cathy Khurana

Assistant Clerk: Stella Roberts

Elders on duty: Mina Tilt, Joy Aldworth

### **2019.030 Opening Minute**

We began our meeting today with a period of silent worship during which we heard of the death of a Friend.

We also heard read part of Quaker Faith and Practice 10.03:

*“Our sense of community does not depend on all professing identical beliefs, for it grows from worshipping together, knowing one another, loving one another, accepting responsibilities, sharing and working together. We will be helped by tried and tested Quaker methods and procedures, but the meeting will only live if we develop a sense of community, which includes children and adults alike. If all those who belong to our meetings are lovingly cared for, the guidance of the spirit will be a reality. The celebration and commemoration of life’s great events draw us together as we share the occasion and rejoice or mourn with one another.*

*Our shared experience of waiting for God’s guidance in our meetings for worship and for church affairs, together with careful listening and gentleness of heart, forms the basis on which we can live out a life of love with and for each other and for those outside our community”. (1994)*

### **2019.031 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:

Christine Bagnall (HAL)

Janet Steed (SOL)

Claire Jones (EDG)

### **2019.032 Membership Matters**

#### **a) Deaths**

We have been notified of the death of David Blake (COT) in April 2018.

#### **b) Application for Membership**

We have received an application for membership from Liwsi Butler, an attender at Walsall LM, and ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors for Liwsi.

### **c) Lost Contact/Termination of Membership**

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

Sandra Carrigan (COV)                      Alexander Clewer (B&R)                      Peter Sladen (COT)  
Julie Clewer (B&R)                      John Hooper (COT)

We therefore terminate their membership under Quaker Faith and Practice 11.30a and 11.30b.

### **d) Resignations**

We have received notification of resignation from the following Friends:

Susan Randall (WAR)                      Nigel Braithwaite (B&R)                      Judith Neal (B&R)

We accept these resignations and ask the clerk to write.

### **e) Transfers Out**

- Carole Rakodi (EDG) to South Wales Area Meeting
- Robin Porter (STO) to Gloucester Area Meeting

### **f) Accepted Out**

Brian Ashley by North Scotland Area Meeting

### **g) Transfer in**

Pete Duckworth (COV) from Northumbria Area Meeting

## **2019.033 Minute of Record: Order for Burial/Internment/Scattering of Ashes**

We record that the ashes of Frances Winifred Richards were scattered in the garden of Stourbridge Meeting House on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

We record that the ashes of Grace Stamper were scattered in the garden of Warwick Meeting House on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## **2019.034 The Unattached List**

A list of members in CEQ who do not wish to be listed under any of our Local Meetings has existed for many years, though since the 2015 membership directory was printed this Unattached List is only on the CEQ database in the Area Meeting office. Many Friends are unaware of its existence.

There are currently names of two Friends on the Unattached List, one of whom no longer lives in the area. There has been no formal contact with these Friends for many years.

We have spent time today considering this matter. In particular we have explored the possible need and reasons for having an unattached list, the desirability of having such a list, and the implications for eldership and oversight for Friends who are or may be on the list.

We feel that there is a need for an unattached list, and agree that the current list will remain in place. Friends may ask to be on the list for several reasons which may include the closure of a local meeting, particular personal circumstances, or when moving into the Area Meeting. We hope that this is a temporary measure. The care of these Friends shall be with Central England Quakers Elders and Overseers Support Group. We suggest that regular contact is established and the list is reviewed at least every three years.

We encourage Elders and Overseers Support Group to find a more suitable name for the unattached list.

## **2019.035 Community Justice Group Terms of Reference**

**(Minute CEQ 2019.020 refers)**

We have received Terms of Reference from the Community Justice Group and Tricia Bradbury has spoken to us and answered questions.

The Community Justice Group is definitely an Area Meeting committee, nominated by Nominations Committee and appointed by Area Meeting. The nature of the work of the Community Justice Group is often confidential and very personal, and so is not suitable as an open interest group.

We accept the revised Terms of Reference.

## **2010.036 Outreach Conference Report**

We have received a report of the Outreach Conference held at High Leigh in February and Rod Keefe has spoken to us and answered questions.

The conference raised several challenging issues:

- Does 'business as usual' lead to stagnation?
- Are we open to newcomers or unconsciously biased?
- What would a newcomer look for when coming to a Quaker meeting?
- How do we greet people? Try thinking through the eyes of a visitor.
- Are people put off by the word 'religious' – should we be 'the Spiritual Society of Friends'?

Rod also encouraged us to organise outreach events in Quaker Week.

We thank Rod for his report which is filed.

## **2019.037 Research Request: Quaker Leadership?**

Stephen Allen, from Beverley Meeting, and a lecturer at the University of Sheffield, is researching leadership and equality, supported by the Quaker Studies Research Association. He is interested in holding workshops 'Exploring influence amongst Friends' with Local and Area Meetings.

We believe this could be a very useful project to take part in, looking at our practice and ourselves, and how we appear to the world.

We ask the clerks to contact Stephen Allen and take this forward.

## **2019.038 Nominations and Appointments**

**Nominations Committee suggest the following:**

- Peter Ullathorne (COT) and Claire Peat (SEL) as visitors to Kate Panagamuwa (COT)
- Stuart Masters (SEL) and Anne Austin (COT) as visitors to Lin Barrington (SEL)
- Janet Hilken (STO) and Roderick Keefe (COT) as visitors to Marina Manassei (STO)
- Judith Jenner (COT) to serve another two years as the Clerk to CEQAM Trustees until December 2020
- Judith Chapman (B&R) to be the Area Meeting Representative to Ackworth School from April 2019 to April 2020
- Judith Chapman (B&R) to continue to serve on the Suzanna Cole Trust & Others from May 2019 to April 2022

We appoint these Friends accordingly.

**Woodlands Trustees Nominations Advisory Sub-committee suggest the following:**

- Peter Collard (NIM) to serve a further three years as Trustee/Director on the Woodlands Management Committee from March 2019 – March 2022;
- Bob Jeays (NIM) to serve a further three years as Trustee/Director on the Woodlands Management Committee from March 2019 – March 2022;
- Dot Hull (STO) to serve a further three years as trustee/Director on the Woodlands Management Committee from March 2019 – March 2022.

We agree to these appointments.

**Triennial Elders and Overseers Nominations:**

The clerk of Triennial Elders and Overseers Nominations Committee brings the name of Kate White (BOU) to serve as an Elder until December 2020.

We agree to this appointment.

**Area Meeting Nominations Committee.**

Bull St LM suggest John Kimberley (BUL) serve as a representative to Area Meeting Nominations Committee.

We agree to this appointment.

**Release from Service**

The following Friends have requested release from service:

- Paul Hewitt (HAR) from Area Meeting Nominations Committee and Area Meeting Property Trustees Committee from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019;
- Helen Steel (BUL) from Area Meeting Nominations Committee.

We release our Friends and thank them for their service.

## **2019.039 Meeting for Sufferings Report**

We have received a report of the Meeting for Sufferings held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and Cathy Khurana has spoken to it and answered questions.

The main items on the agenda were Inclusion and Diversity, and Vibrancy in Meetings.

We have been told of a resource 'Fostering Vital Friends Meetings' by the Friends General Conference (USA), which is available to borrow from Woodbrooke.

Cathy's report is filed.

## **2019.040 Thanks and Next Meeting**

We thank Friends at Hall Green and Kings Heath for hosting Area Meeting today. We meet again on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Sutton Coldfield QMH, from 2.0 – 5.0pm.

Cathy Khurana

Clerk this time