

Minutes of Central England Quakers
Meeting for Church Affairs
Held at Sutton Coldfield Quaker Meeting House
on 18th May 2019

Clerk: Stella Roberts

Assistant clerk: Alison Ironside

Elders on duty: Barbara Cockcroft, John Cockcroft

2019.041 Opening Minute

Our meeting began with a period of silent worship during which we heard read to us part of the epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting 2019

2019.042 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

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

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

Barbara Wallin (BOU)

Richard Begg (SUT)

Ian Taylor (SUT)

Ralph Wallin (BOU)

David Foxall (SUT)

Fiona Waterhouse (SUT)

2019.043 Membership Matters

a) Deaths

We record the death of Julia Kordan (COT) on 27th April 2019, aged 92.

b) Applications for membership

We have received applications for membership from Barbara Wallin and Ralph Wallin, attenders at Bournville Meeting

We ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors for Barbara and Ralph.

c) Termination

Contact has been lost with the following Friend, for whom we have no forwarding address

Brett Western-Jones of Coventry Meeting

We therefore terminate her membership under QF&P 11.30b.

d) Resignation

We accept the resignation of Bonny Landsborough (WAR) and ask the clerk to write to her.

e) Accepted Out

Robin Porter (STO) has been accepted by Gloucestershire Area Meeting.

2019.044 Junior Yearly Meeting 2019

We have received a report from Rosie Gilbert and Sammy Gilbert describing their experiences at JYM, which was held at the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire from the 12th-15th April. The theme of 'Diversity and Inclusivity,' asking the question: 'How can we use our ideals to change our reality?' was explored in various creative ways. Participants were encouraged to recognise and examine the different aspects of privilege they enjoyed and at a business meeting for worship wrote a minute addressing the question: 'What is our reality as a Quaker community and how does our privilege affect how we understand it?'

We thank Rosie and Sammy for their report, which is filed alongside the text of the JYM Epistle we heard in our opening worship.

2019.045 CEQ Low Carbon Commitment Forum (LCCF)

We have received the minute of the LCCF which met this morning.

MINUTE TO AREA MEETING

The CEQ Low Carbon Commitment forum met this morning before area meeting and considered the 'climate emergencies' being declared by local councils.

In November 2018, the councils of two major cities, Bristol and Manchester, passed motions declaring a 'climate emergency' and setting targets aiming to become carbon neutral by 2030 and 2038 respectively. Since then 59 councils across the UK have declared climate emergencies.

We have read the draft motion being put to a full Birmingham City Council meeting in early June and believe other councils are also declaring emergencies. The forum has also learned that Footsteps - Faiths for a Low Carbon Future is sending a letter supporting the motion to Councillors Zafar and Cotton. The letter will be endorsed by a wide and diverse range of community faith leaders as well, it is hoped, the Birmingham Faith Leaders group.

The forum discussed the draft motion this morning and supports the Footsteps initiative. It hopes that area meeting will ask one of its clerks to sign the letter alongside the other Birmingham community faith leaders.

We agree that one of the area meeting clerks should add their signature on our behalf to the letter to Birmingham City Council referred to. We attach a copy of the letter to the minute.

2019.046 Registering Officers (ROs)

Sarah Evans and John Sheldon have sent us a report on a training course for ROs attended by Sarah and an annual conference that they both attended.

John Sheldon has spoken to us on an issue needing consideration. At present, Central England Area Meeting has delegated authority for local meetings to conduct marriages without the ROs having to seek permission from AM at the beginning of the process. Hence the responsibility lies with the RO and the LM concerned and means that AM may be unaware that a wedding is taking place until the certificate of accomplishment is sent to them. It seems that very few, if indeed any other area meeting, delegates its authority in this way. In two places in QF&P, (16.43 and 4.10.o) it states that area meetings should regularly review the delegation of such permission.

On reflection we agree to continue to delegate responsibility to our LMs for appointing a meeting for worship for the solemnisation of a marriage, rather than adding another layer to the process. We would welcome the advance notice at AM level of any impending marriage.

2019.047 Trustee Matters

Judith Jenner, clerk to trustees, has laid before us the proposal by trustees to employ someone to support the day to day work of our charity and ensure that we are compliant with the legal requirements laid upon us. Many tasks carried out by trustees and service committees could be done by such an employee, the key criterion for such a role being anything that a suitably qualified person could manage that does not require making policy decisions. Much of the work presently covered by the treasurer to trustees also falls into this category; where there are grey areas the employee could seek guidance in how to proceed.

We agree in principle to using a paid professional and ask trustees to investigate the practical considerations of such a venture and report back to a future area meeting.

2019.048 Nominations and Appointments

Nominations Committee suggest:

- Rosalie Rider (STO) to serve another Triennium on the AM Bursaries Committee from May 2019 to May 2022.
- Sue Thompson (COT) to serve another Triennium on the Susannah Cole Trust and Others from May 2019 to May 2022
- Diana Lampen (STO) to serve one more year on the Talking Friend Trustee from May 2019 to May 2020
- Sarah Fishpool (COT) to continue to serve another Triennium as a Safeguarding Officer until Aug 2022
- Peter Ullathorne (COT) to serve as a Trustee on Trustees Property Committee
- Anne Austin (COT) to serve on Trustees Employment Committee
- Holly Timmermans (EDG) & Nicholas Paton Philip (STO) as visitors to Neil Souter on his Journey into Membership.
- Gill Smith (WAR) to serve as the Trustee on Records Advisory Committee.
- Jane Stanley (WAL) & Daniel Keeler (HAR) as visitors to Liwsi Butler on her Journey into Membership
- Peter Fishpool (COT) to serve on Community Justice Group from May 2019 to May 2022
- Barbara Groombridge (WAL) to serve another Triennium on Bursary Committee to June 2022

We appoint these Friends accordingly.

Release from service

We have received the following request for release from service:

- Helen Pemberton (WAR) from December 2019 as an overseer

We release our Friend and thank her for her service.

2019.049 Thanks and Next Meeting

We thank Sutton Coldfield for hosting Area Meeting today. We meet again at Stourbridge QMH on Saturday, 15th June from 2.00 – 5.00pm.

Stella Roberts

Clerk this time