

Minutes of Central England Area Quaker Meeting held at Hartshill Meeting House on 14th September 2019

Clerk: Alison Ironside
Assistant clerk: Vic Grainger

Elders on duty: Clare Barnett, Daniel Keeler

2019.078 Opening Minute

Our Meeting began with a period of silent worship during which §23.10 of Quaker Faith and Practice was read to us:

We need both a deeper spirituality and a more outspoken witness. If our spirituality can reach the depths of authentic prayer, our lives will become an authentic witness for justice, peace and the integrity of creation, a witness which becomes the context for our prayer. Out of the depths of authentic prayer comes a longing for peace and a passion for justice. And our response to violence and injustice is to pray more deeply, because only God can show us the way out of the mess that the world is in. And only God gives us the strength to follow that Way.

Gordon Matthews, 1989

2019.079 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

BOU; BUL; COT; COV; EDG; HAL; HAR; SEL; SOL; STO; SUT; WAR

2019.080 Membership Matters

a) Death

We record the death of Harry George Thomas Daw (BOU) who died on the 10th of August aged 92.

b) Birth

We record the birth of Jackson Victor born on 1st March 2019 to Martha Hayday (WAR). We ask nominations committee to appoint visitors to welcome Jackson.

c) Application for Membership

We have received an application for membership from Christine Bagnall, an attender at Hall Green Meeting.

We ask Nominations Committee to find names for visitors.

d) Journey into Membership:

We have heard the report of the journey into membership of Barbara Wallin, an attender at Bournville LM. We welcome her into membership of the Religious Society of Friends and Central England Quakers. We ask her visitors to welcome her and the clerk to write to her.

e) Journey into Membership:

We have heard the report of the journey into membership of Ralph Wallin, an attender at Bournville LM. We welcome him into membership of the Religious Society of Friends and Central England Quakers. We ask his visitors to welcome him and the clerk to write to him.

f) Journey into Membership:

We have heard the report of the journey into membership of Lin Singh - Barrington, an attender at Selly Oak LM. We welcome her into membership of the Religious Society of Friends and Central England Quakers. We ask her visitors to welcome her and the clerk to write to her.

g) Transfer In:

Esther Large (SOL) from Mid-Thames Quaker Area Meeting.to Central England Area Quaker Meeting

2019.081 Memorial Minute

We have received the following minute from Warwick LM:

Minute 19/53 Memorial Minute - Toni Rumsby

We received a Memorial Minute for Toni Rumsby, filed with these minutes.

We thank the Elders and all those involved in writing this engaging and inspiring minute which has already been forwarded to and accepted by Area Meeting, due to a slight misunderstanding of the process.

We will forward this to the Elders' and Overseers' Support Group for further consideration and this minute to Area Meeting.

We received the Memorial Minute last time, minute 2019.068, and can confirm that it has now been forwarded to the Elders' and Overseers' Support Group.

2019.082 QL Report

Donald Whitlock has spoken to his written report.

The conference was about inclusion and diversity, and Donald added to the summaries of the principal keynote speech and the 3 short personal speeches with his personal comments.

He told us that he had had such a good time that he hadn't made many notes but he was very impressed by all the speakers.

We thank Donald Whitlock for attending the conference on our behalf and the report is filed.

2019.083 Minutes Received.

a) from Cotteridge LM

We have received the following minute from Cotteridge Meeting

Minute 2019/35 Local Concerns

We have heard reports on the four local concerns which are independent charities we have supported in 2019. We thank Harriet Martin, Anne Austin and Susan Steadman for presenting these reports. We are encouraged that a number of members of meeting are able to be personally involved in the work of these charities. The paper reports for Hope House, B30 Food Bank and The Project are filed with these minutes.

We agree to continue our financial support of Hope House, B30 Food Bank, Restore, and The Project in 2020 and we are encouraged to give practical support to them as well.

This is in line with the correct application of charitable funds, a document issued by Trustees Finance Committee, and therefore these projects are "recognised" as a LM concern, and thus qualify as a charitable activity.

b) from Edgbaston LM

We have received the following minute from Edgbaston Meeting:

An informal Meeting for Worship for Business was held at Edgbaston LM on Sunday 1 September with 11 Friends present including Patricia Bradbury as CEQ Link Trustee

Friends were informed that as of January 2020 Edgbaston LM will only have two Office Holders in post, one Elder and one Overseer - no Clerk and no (local) Treasurer. The future care of the Meeting for Worship and the building needed to be considered.

It was agreed that a full discussion would take place on Sunday 6 October and that a note would be sent to all Friends asking that they attend so that a way forward can be agreed. Edgbaston LM asks for Area Meeting's prayerful support at this time.

We hope that Friends will hold Edgbaston meeting in the light for that discussion on the 6th October and in the months ahead.

We note that the finances are being currently managed by Wendy Wolfendale, as an off-site bookkeeper.

2019.084 Talking Friends and Visually impaired Friends

Further to our minute 2019.069 at our July Area Meeting on the Talking Friend Report, we have returned to this matter.

The Talking Friend trustees are appointed by Central England Area Quaker Meeting.

We welcome Britain Yearly Meeting's increasing insistence on addressing inequality, diversity and the needs of minority groups; and we are mindful of the requirements for organisations to provide information in a form accessible to all.

In the Talking Friends trustees annual report for 2018, we were reminded that nearly three years ago the trustees were told, in an email from a member of staff in the Communications department of Britain Yearly Meeting, that a review was being undertaken to put more Quaker material in an alternative format accessible to visually impaired Friends. We are concerned at the lack of action in view of the current concern for equality.

The Talking Friends committee is very small and finds difficulty in recruiting new trustees and members. It can find readers for Quaker periodicals, pamphlets and a few shorter books like those issued by some Quaker Recognised Bodies. But it is not able to cope with the amount of new Quaker materials being produced centrally and to disseminate it to those who cannot read print.

We support these concerns of the Talking Friends trustees and we send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings, hoping for some action.

We also ask the trustees of the Talking Friends to be in touch with 'The Friend' offering an audio version of each issue (which Talking Friend can still provide) for posting on their website.

We forward this minute to the Talking Friends trustees.

2019.085 IT and Data Protection Committee

We have received the following minute from the IT and Data Protection Committee:

2019.20 Future of this committee

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Local Meetings and branches lays the responsibility with them to monitor compliance on data protection. A new post of CEQ operations manager is being created and will have responsibility for IT. For these reasons we believe the work of this committee can

pass back to the CEQ Trustees Governance and Compliance Committee, and ask AM to lay the committee down. Tricia Bradbury is happy to continue to be the link trustee for any queries by Data Leads for LM'S and branches regarding IT & DP.

We believe that the committee has fulfilled its work and agree that it should be now laid down. We thank those Friends who have worked diligently on this committee on our behalf.

We note that only named individuals will receive the new Members and Attenders Directory.

2019.086 Nominations

Nominations committee have the following suggestions for service:

- Helen Rowlands (COT) as CEQAM Co-clerk January 2020 - December 2020:
- John Kimberley (BUL) to serve on CEQ Trustees Finance Committee November 2019 - October 2022:
- Anna Baker (SEL) to serve on Northfield Development Committee October 2019 - September 2022
- Ruth Livermore (COT) to serve on Communications Committee October 2019 - September 2022:
- Stephen Holt (WAR) to serve as a Director of Priory Rooms January 2020 - December 2023:
- Richard Tuckett (COT) to serve as Chaplain of University of Birmingham, September 2019 with no end date: with Roderick Keefe (COT) to take over when Richard steps down next year

We approve these names and appoint them accordingly

Release from Service

The following Friends have asked to be released

- Mary Agnes Moore (WAL) as an Elder
- Sue Jenkins (EDG) as an Elder from the end of November 2019
- Sue Jenkins (EDG) as a QCAT Trustee from the end of November 2019.
- Sean Beag (B&R) from CEQ Trustees Property committee.

We agree to these requests and thank them for their service.

We ask Nominations Committee to find replacement names if required.

2019.087 Interim Triennial Elders and Overseers' Nominations

The clerk of Triennial Elders & Overseers Nominations Committee brings forward the name of Eleanor Nesbitt (COV) as an Elder/Overseer for the remainder of the triennium to the end of Dec 2020.

We appoint Eleanor Nesbitt as Elder / Overseer from now until the end of the triennium Dec 2020.

2019.088 Area Meeting in 2020

A list of dates has been finalised for next year and we thank all local Meetings who have offered to host Area meeting.

We agree the dates that are listed below:

CEQ Area Meetings in 2020:

date	venue	date	venue
Sat 18 th January 2.0 - 5.0pm	Bull Street	Tues 14 th July 6.0 – 9.0pm	Warwick
Sat 07 th March 2.0 – 5.0pm	Hall Green & Solihull	Sat 12 th September 2.0 – 5.0pm	Barnt Green & Redditch
Thurs 23 rd April 6.0 – 9.0pm	Selly Oak	Sat 24 th October 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bournville
Sat 13 th June 2.0 – 5.0pm	Cotteridge	Sat 28 th November 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bull Street

2019.089 Thanks and Next Meeting

We thank Hartshill LM for hosting AM. We meet again, at Coventry QMH on October 19th from 2.00 – 5.00pm.

Alison Ironside

Clerk this time