

Minutes of Central England Quakers
Meeting for Church Affairs
Held at Coventry Quaker Meeting House
on 19th October 2019

Clerk: Stella Roberts

Assistant clerk: Alison Ironside

Elders on duty: Barbara Clarke & Diane Stobbs (COV)

2019.090 Opening Minute

Our meeting began with a period of silent worship during which we heard read to us

Quaker Faith & Practice: Chapter 23.48

God comes to us in the midst of human need, and the most pressing needs of our time demand community in response. How can I participate in a fairer distribution of resources unless I live in a community which makes it possible to consume less? How can I learn accountability unless I live in a community where my acts and their consequences are visible to all? How can I learn to share power unless I live in a community where hierarchy is unnatural? How can I take the risks which right action demands unless I belong to a community which gives support? How can I learn the sanctity of each life unless I live in a community where we can be persons not roles to one another?

Parker J Palmer, 1977

2019.091 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

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

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

Lisa Small (BGR)

James Stacey (COV)

Christine Bagnall (HAL)

We welcome Michael Addison, director of ecobirmingham

2019.092 Membership Matters

Application for Membership

We have received an application for membership from David Foxall, an attender at Sutton Coldfield Local Meeting.

We ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors for David

2019.093 Memorial Minutes

We have received a memorial minute from Bull Street Meeting **regarding** John Roylance and one from Coventry Meeting **about** Anne Burkett. Extracts from these minutes have been read to us and we agree to send them on to Elder/Overseers Support Group.

2019.094 Ecobirmingham Report

We have received from Michael Addison, director of ecobirmingham, a financial report for the period July 2018 to March 2019, representing the transition period of the charity from being the Northfield Ecocentre project set up by Central England Quakers in 2009. We have also been sent an Impact report that describes the many activities in which the newly independent charity is involved and looks forward to playing a key role in helping Birmingham towards becoming a sustainable city. The report thanks Central England Quakers for help with the transition and continuing support and expresses a commitment to retaining the 'ethos and values' of ecobirmingham's Quaker heritage.

Michael has spoken to this report and answered questions. Christine Bagnall has described her involvement as a Quaker and a board member with the organisation. We thank them both for their input today.

Ministry reflected on the long-standing Quaker response to perceived injustice from slavery, through banning the bomb, to the current climate protests. We heard that Cotteridge Meeting are supporting a Friend who has been arrested at Extinction Rebellion protests in London.

2019.095 Minutes Received from Local Meetings

Two Local Meetings are requesting funding from Area Meeting toward projects of particular concern which they support and fully describe in their minutes.

1. Coventry Local Meeting support Jo Hallett in her project of many years: **Let's Read Ghana**. At present she has launched an appeal to fund the scheme for another year.
2. Stourbridge Local Meeting support **Journeyman Theatre** formed by Lynn and Dave Morris, which has a growing number of projects able to tour throughout the UK.

We agree in principle to support these two requests for funding and pass them to Trustees Finance Committee for consideration in the budget planning process for 2020.

2019.096 Charities of Susanna Cole & Others Report

We have received the annual report of the charity for the year ending December 2018. The Trust provides ongoing or one-off grants to members and attenders of our area meeting in need of financial support for a variety of reasons.

The trustees are keen to receive more applications and will soon be circulating an updated explanatory leaflet to LMs for the use of overseers and applicants. It is particularly hoped that younger people could be helped with educational needs, vocational training or when starting work or setting up in business.

2019.097 Quaker Witness at DSEI Arms Fair

Two Friends from our area meeting who were present at the No Faith in War protest in September describe their experiences in the attached reflections and we heard from Jo Hallett (COV) and Helen Rowlands (COT) who also attended.

A number of mini-banners made by Coventry Friends were sewn together and **were** on display at the protest, as pictured in the photograph. The Peace Museum in Bradford asked to borrow the banner for an exhibition, since when the Friends concerned have agreed to donate it.

We commend those Friends who set up the Roots of Resistance initiative for their inspiring organisation of the event and support for those who took part.

2019.098 Meeting for Sufferings Report

We have received a report of the Meeting for Sufferings held at Woodbrooke from 4th-6th October 2019 from our representative Cathy Khurana. She highlights the fact that having a weekend together, with a variety of activities on offer, made this meeting a very different experience from the normal business, allowing participants to engage at a deeper level.

We note with regard to safeguarding that Central England is one of six area meetings contributing to an investigation into child protection for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. In order to provide the information requested, it may be necessary to amend our policies and practices and our safeguarding officers are putting strategies in place to address this.

2019.099 Nominations and Appointments

Nominations Committee suggest:

- Alison Ironside (SEL) and Stella Roberts (COV) to serve a further year as AM **co-clerks** from January 2020 until the end of December 2020
- Mina Tilt (HAL) and Robin Bowman (BOU) to visit Christine Bagnall on her journey into membership
- Tony Pegler (SUT) to serve a third triennium as Area Meeting Trustee to Dec 2022
- Ted Raybould (COT) to serve a third triennium as General Fund Treasurer to Dec 2022 and on Trustees Finance Committee to Dec 2022
- Anna Edelsten (WAR) to serve on the Community Justice Group
- Anne Ullathorne (COT) to serve a further year on the Susanna Cole & Others Trust to complete her triennium until Dec 2020
- Dave Rawcliffe (WAR) to help complete the Tabular Statement 2019
- Claire Bowman (BOU) to visit Jackson Victor Heyday to welcome him
- Adam Waters (SEL) to take part in the Young Quakers Participation Day 2019

We approve these names and appoint these Friends accordingly.

We agree in principle to send another Young Friend to the Young Quakers Participation Day on December 7th and to send two Friends to the Book of Discipline Revision Conference, November 8th-10th

Correction to term of service from September appointments:

- Stephen Holt (WAR) will serve as a Director of Priory Rooms from January 2020 – December 2023

Release from Service

- Barry Stimpson (BGR) as a CEQAM Trustee

We release our Friend and thank him for his service.

2019.100 Quaker Week Review

Five Local Meetings who put on special events or took particular action around the time of Quaker week 2019 have provided brief descriptions of these initiatives. The activities very much involved outreach into the local community, celebrating our Quaker history and engaging with current Quaker concerns.

2019.101 Thanks and Next Meeting

We thank Coventry Friends for hosting Area Meeting today. We meet again at Bull Street QMH on Saturday, 23rd November from 2.00 – 5.00pm.

Stella Roberts

Clerk this time