

Minutes of Central England Area Quaker Meeting held by Video Conferencing on 12 September 2020

Clerk: Alison Ironside
Assistant clerk: Helen Rowlands

Elders on duty: Gill Smith, John West

2020.051 Meeting by Video Conferencing

We record that we are meeting again by video conferencing. While Meetings for Worship are, at present, now permitted, restrictions on numbers due to required distancing guidelines mean that we are unable to meet at Barnt Green Quaker Meeting House as planned.

Our Meeting began with a period of silent worship during which the first two paragraphs of QFP 23.08 were read:

'Two sins have my people committed; they have forsaken me, a spring of living water, and they have hewn themselves cisterns, cracked cisterns that can hold no water' (Jer 2:13). I know of no better description of the world we live in than that. We have forgotten that we need the life-giving water of the holy spirit if the material element of the world in which we live is not, sooner or later, to turn into dust and ashes; and we have developed social institutions which cannot hold or channel the life-giving water anyway...

As Christians we need to see ourselves as God's plumbers, working on tanks and channels for the living water that can quicken the daily life of men, women and children... Jesus taught us about patterns of living that make for wholeness as we and our neighbours care for one another and build one another up. And all the patterns that Jesus showed us of cisterns and channels of caring and service challenge the patterns of Mammon that offer quicker and more showy results, but that end in the debris of a possessive society that allows the living water to run away into the sand. Good plumbers build to last; they don't fall for fashions that rust and fade and crack.

Roger Wilson, 1976.

2020.052 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

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

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

Ian Taylor (SUT).

2020.053 Membership matters

a) Deaths

We record the deaths of the following Friends:

Eunice Woodhead (HAL) died on 11th July 2020 aged 99

Lizzie Lloyd-Philipps (SEL) died on 23rd August aged 87

Janette Denley (B&R) died on 8th September 2020 aged 85.

b) Journey into Membership:

We have heard the report of the journey into membership of Carolyn Arber, an attender at Cotteridge 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.

c) Applications for Membership

We have received an application from Margot Williams, an attender at Sutton Coldfield Local Meeting. We ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors.

We have received an application from James Stacey, an attender at Coventry Local Meeting. We ask Nominations Committee to find names of visitors.

d) Transfer In

Steve Pullan (COV) from Northumbria Area Meeting

2020.054 Proposal to employ a principal officer for the Area Meeting

Further to our minute 2020.046 we receive the paper "Proposal to employ a principal officer for the Area Meeting" and Judith Jenner, clerk to Trustees, has spoken to it.

The key tasks have been drawn up but it is too early for a precise job description. Some of the qualities of what is needed in the person who might fulfil this role are given. The purpose of the role has been amended in the meeting deleting the first usage of the word leadership.

We understand that our Area Meeting charity is exposed to a high risk at present relying on mainly one key volunteer in important financial and property matters. To mitigate that risk Trustees feel that such a paid staff role is necessary.

We agree that trustees can go ahead with recruiting a principal officer for the Area Meeting.

We ask that the group taking this forward recognise any risk associated with transferring the work to only one key employee.

2020.055 AM Dates and Venues for 2021

We accept the offers listed as amended in this Meeting and note that we would like an offer for April 2021.

date	venue	date	venue
Sat 16 th January 2.0 - 5.0pm	Bull Street Quaker Meeting House	Thurs 15th July 6.0 – 9.0pm	Warwick Quaker Meeting House
Sat 06 th March 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bournville Quaker Meeting House	Sat 11 th September 2.0 – 5.0pm	Barnt Green Quaker Meeting House
20, 21 or 22nd April 6.0 – 9.0pm		Sat 16 th October 2.0 – 5.0pm	Stourbridge Quaker Meeting House
Sat 12 th June 2.0 – 5.0pm	Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House	Sat 27th November 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bull Street Quaker Meeting House

2020.056 Nominations

Nominations committee have the following suggestions for service:

- To serve on Peace Committee from September 2020 until the end of August 2023 Cathy Khurana (SUT) and Barbara Forbes (BUL)
- To serve on the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project management committee from September 2020 until the end of August 2023 David Pulford (SEL) and Heather Rowlands (COT)
- To serve as an Area Meeting Trustee from September 2020 until the end of August 2023 Fiona Waterhouse (SUT)
- To serve as an AM Trustee from September 2020 until the end of August 2023 Christine Bagnall (HAL)
- To serve on Trustees Property Committee from September 2020 until the end of August 2023 Robert Sprake (B&R) and David Taylor (BOU)
- To serve on the Community Justice Group from September 2020 Robert Sprake (B&R)

We approve these names and appoint them accordingly and ask the Area Meeting Secretary to inform them

We have heard that neither our Quaker Life (QL) representative, Donald Whitlock, or the alternate, Liz Collinge-Hill, can attend the virtual QL conference on 10th October 2020. We agree that Ruth Livermore should attend in order that there is representation from Central England Quakers for this QL conference.

Release from Service

The following Friends have asked to be released:

- Helen Begg (SUT) and Judith Sanderson (SUT) as Elder/Overseers from the end of December 2020

We agree to these requests and thank the Friends for their service and ask the Area Meeting Secretary to inform them.

2020.057 Next meeting

We hope to meet again on October 24th 2020 from 2.00 p.m. hosted by Bournville LM. The calling letter for that meeting will inform Friends about the format to be used, whether in person or virtual, or a mix of the two.

Alison Ironside

Clerk this time