

# Minutes of Central England Area Quaker Meeting held as a Blended Meeting by Video Conferencing on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Clerk: Alison Ironside  
Assistant clerk: Stella Roberts

Elders on duty: Peter Fishpool (zoom), Anne Ullathorne (at Cotteridge).

## 2021.043 Opening Minute

We record that while some of us are meeting again by video conferencing, Friends have been able to join from Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House, so this is a blended Meeting.

Our Meeting began with a period of silent worship during which the closing paragraphs of the Introduction to Quaker Faith and Practice was read:

*We are seekers but we are also the holders of a precious heritage of discoveries. We, like every generation, must find the Light and Life again for ourselves. Only what we have valued and truly made our own, not by assertion but by lives of faithful commitment, can we hand on to the future. Even then, we must humbly acknowledge that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended.*

*In the Religious Society of Friends we commit ourselves not to words but to a way.*

## 2021.044 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

BOU; BUL; COT; COV; SOL; STO; SUT; WAL; WAR;

We welcome Frances Rutter, a member of South Wales Area Meeting.

## 2021.045 Membership Matters

### a) Deaths

We record the death of Esther Large (SOL) who died on 24th April 2021 aged 89.

We record the death of Miriam Branson (STO) who died on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 aged 80.

We record the death of Valerie (Val) Hill (COT) who died on 16<sup>th</sup> May aged 87.

### b) Journey into Membership

We have heard the report of the journey into membership of Cathy Tuckett, 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) Accepted Out

Gill and David Grimshaw (WAR) by Banbury and Evesham Area Meeting.

### d) Transfer In:

Andrew Lane (BUL) from Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting.

## **2021.046 Memorial Minute**

We have received a memorial minute from Walsall Meeting for William Rowley and have had a shortened version of it read to us.

We forward this minute to Elders / Overseers Support Group for their consideration.

## **2021.047 CEQ Trustees Report**

Judith Jenner, clerk to CEQ trustees, has presented the 2020 report on their work to us.

She told us that the highlight of last year for her was the deeply spiritual experience of clerking trustee meetings and being led by the spirit during the pandemic and their responses to it.

There were a lot of challenges, but they had to find their way through e.g. furlough, COVID regulations, lack of income.

She spoke of thinking that she would not continue as clerk of trustees in 2021 but, Nominations Committee not being able to find anyone, she agreed to continue.

She spoke of where trustees are going. They have set up a system for managing finances and property – Meeting House Management Group – to give some of the smaller Meetings space to develop their spiritual life.

She emphasised that trustees need to work with Area Meeting; Area Meeting needs to find ways of being a simpler Area Meeting and supporting each other.

She thanked Priory Rooms staff, who have helped in practically taking on some of the tasks that a principal officer might take over when the time is right.

We thank Judith Jenner and all the trustees for their work over what turned out to be a very challenging year.

## **2021.048 Meeting for Sufferings Report**

Cathy Khurana has spoken to the report on Meeting for Sufferings on 10<sup>th</sup> April, which had been circulated.

Assisted Dying was one of the biggest agenda items. Cathy found it a very moving topic and there was space for many different contributions.

It has been agreed that the use of the terms Elder and Overseer should change, particularly the word overseer, but no-one has come up with a definite replacement. It is hoped to agree the terminology by the end of 2022.

We thank Cathy for her report, which is filed.

## **2021.049 Quaker Life Representative Council Report**

Lin Barrington has shared her notes on the April meeting and spoken of her impressions of this event.

The title was “For your comfort and discomfort”. She was grateful for a session especially for new representatives.

We thank Lin Barrington for her report and the notes are filed.

## **2021.050 Peace Hub Report**

Jim Green, clerk of the Peace Hub Management Committee, spoke to this report.

The Covid 19 pandemic meant that they had to close in March 2020, although work continued online via their website and social media.

The strapline for the Peace Hub is ‘Encouraging Action for Peace’.

Finances were touched on as there will be less grants this year and they would welcome individual or Meeting donations.

We are encouraged to drop into the Peace Hub now that it is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.

We thank Pete Doubtfire, the co-ordinator, who works out of the Peace Hub and the members of the management committee for their work.

## **2021.051 Triennial Nominations Committee for Eldership & Oversight**

The following further names for a representative and alternate have been forwarded by our Local Meetings:

Bournville Rep – Anne Giles, Robin Bowman alternate

Kings Heath Rep – Annette Gough, Ruth Livermore alternate

We appoint these Friends. The second meeting of this committee will be held on 7 July 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

## **2021.052 Nominations**

Nominations committee have the following suggestions for service:

- John Kimberley (BUL) to serve as an AM Trustees from May 21 to April 24
- Fiona Waterhouse (SUT) to serve on Records Advisory Committee from June 21 to May 24
- Wendy Burnett (BUL) to serve as a Priory Rooms Director from June 21 to May 25
- Anne Giles (BOU) to serve on Trustees Property Committee from June 21 to May 24
- Mina Tilt (HAL) to serve on Trustees Property Committee from June 21 to May 24
- Claire Bowman (BOU) to serve as Meeting for Sufferings Rep from YM 2021 to YM 2024
- Margot Williams (SUT) to serve as alternate Meeting for Sufferings Rep from YM 2021 to YM 2024
- Clare Barnett (HAR) to serve on CYPC from June 21 to May 24
- Visitors for Tom Dunkley-Jones (COT) Journey into Membership Clare Peat (SEL) and David Cockcroft (COT).

We approve these names and appoint them accordingly and ask the Area Meeting Secretary to inform them and any clerks of the relevant committees.

### **Release from Service**

- Peter Fishpool (COT) from AM Finance Committee. Area Meeting Elders and Overseers Support Committee and as an Area Meeting Elder
- Lin Singh-Barrington (SEL) as Quaker Life Representative [alternate]<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

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

We particularly thank Peter Fishpool, who will be moving out of our Area Meeting in due course, for his long service to our area Meeting.

## **2021.053 Thanks and Next Meeting**

We thank Cotteridge LM for providing Elders and helping with the blended Meeting. We meet again, at Warwick QMH on July 15th from 6.00 – 9.00pm. This will be a blended meeting.

Alison Ironside

Clerk