

Minutes of Central England Area Quaker Meeting held at Bull Street Quaker Meeting House as a Blended Meeting on 18 September 2021

Clerk: Alison Ironside
Assistant Clerk: Vic Grainger

Elders on duty: Stella Roberts (zoom), John Sheldon,

2021.065 Opening minute

We record that this is a blended Meeting facilitated by Priory Rooms.

Our Meeting began with a period of silent worship during which § 2.73 of Quaker Faith and Practice was read:

The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it, and to feel God's presence.
George Fox, 1657

2021.066 Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

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

2021.067 Right Holding of Meetings for Worship for Business

We have been reminded of our discipline and part of QF&P § 3.05 was read: *The right conduct of our meetings for church affairs depends upon all coming to them in an active, seeking spirit, not with minds already made up on a particular course of action, determined to push this through at all costs... This demands that we shall be ready to listen to others carefully, without antagonism if they express opinions which are unpleasing to us but trying always to discern the truth in what they have to offer. It calls, above all, for spiritual sensitivity. If our meetings fail, the failure may well be in those who are ill-prepared to use the method rather than in the inadequacy of the method itself.*

2021.068 Membership matters

a) Death We record the death of Janet Steed, an attender at Solihull Meeting, who died on 23rd July 2021 aged 83.

b) Transfer Out

Kate Law-Jones (COT) to Central Lancashire Area Meeting

c) Accepted Out:

Hilary Cremin (WAR) by Leicester Area Meeting

Sally Sadler (COT) by Cambridgeshire Area Meeting.

Jonathan Idle (COV) by Hampshire & Islands Area Meeting

d) Transfer In:

Frances Rutter (WAR) from South Wales Area Meeting.

2021.069 Hosting Area Meeting in 2022

The following dates, times and venues are suggested subject to confirmation:

date	venue	date	venue
Sat 15 th January 2.0 - 5.0pm	Bull Street Quaker Meeting House	Thurs 21st July 6.0 – 9.0pm	Warwick Quaker Meeting House
Sat 12 th March 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bournville Quaker Meeting House	Sat 10 th September 2.0 – 5.0pm	
19, 20, or 21st or 26, 27, 28 th April 6.0 – 9.0pm	Sutton Coldfield Quaker Meeting House	Sat 15 th October 2.0 – 5.0pm	Coventry Quaker Meeting House
Sat 18 th June 2.0 – 5.0pm	Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House	Sat 26th November 2.0 – 5.0pm	Bull Street Quaker Meeting House

We still need an offer for September.

2021.070 Peace Committee Report

The clerk of our Peace Committee, John Sheldon, has spoken to the written report before us. He reminded us that they had kept going despite the pandemic. We note that Roots of Resistance is now called Quaker Roots.

We thank John Sheldon and the Peace Committee for their work and their report, which is filed.

2021.071 Possibilities of Peace Conference Report

Clare Barnett attended this conference on our behalf. It was good to know that she could use some of the information gleaned in her work as a teacher.

We thank Clare Barnett for her report, which is filed.

2021.072 Area Meeting Secretary

We record our thanks to the outgoing Area Meeting Secretary, David Brayley-Willmetts, who retired at the end of July after nearly 17 years of service.

2021.073 Eldership and Oversight Triennial Appointments

We have received the following names from the Triennial Committee:

LM Nominations for Elders, Overseers and Elder/Overseers for the triennium 2022-24

Barnt Green & Redditch

The LM is undecided whether to continue as a LM, so the matter is under discussion, but clarity has not yet been reached, and there are no names as yet to bring forward.

Bournville

Elders: Eleanor Jackson, Donald Stubbings, Kate White.

Overseers: Howard Saunders, Claire Bowman, Anne Giles.

Bull Street

Elders: Wendy Burnett, Richard Pashley.

Overseers: Alistair Dow, Gavin Regnart.

Cotteridge

Elders: Michael Eccles, Jo Hindley, Harriet Martin, Mark Russ, Anne Ullathorne.

Overseers: Carolyn Arber, Sarah Jones, Roderick Keefe, Jill Stow, Hilary Topp, Cathy Tuckett, Leonora Wilson.

Coventry LM

Elder/Overseers: Gyll Brown; Mig Kerr; Eleanor Nesbitt; Stella Roberts; James Stacey; Diane Stobbs.

Hall Green

Elders: Joy Aldworth, Mina Tilt, Judith Millington.

Overseers: Celia Morris, Trevor Barker, Huw Davies.

Hartshill

Elder/Overseers: Clare Barnett, Daniel Keeler, Paul Hewitt, Miriam Barraclough, Rae Ritchie, Jane Carr.

Kings Heath

Elder/Overseers: Liz Collinge-Hill, Annette Gough.

Selly Oak

Elders: Nessa Grimes (convenor), Stuart Masters, Edward Ullathorne.

Overseers: Barnaby Waters (convenor), Arthur Lockett, Lin Singh Barrington.

Solihull

Elderseers: Donald Whitlock, Janet White.

Stourbridge

Elders: Tricia Bradbury, Lynn Morris, Rosalie Rider, Ginnie Wollaston.

Overseers: Julia Furminger, Diana Lampen, Dave Morris, Judith Parkin. Diana Lampen to serve 2022 and 2023 only.

Sutton Coldfield

Elder/Overseers: Barbara Cockcroft, John Cockcroft, Cathy Khurana, Fiona Waterhouse, Margot Williams.

Walsall

Elder/Overseers: Jim Green, Barbara Groombridge, Dorothy Levesley, Jane Stanley.

Warwick

Elders: Diana Biddlestone, John Sheldon, Sarah Thompson.

Overseers: Paula Button, Jane Cunningham, Ann James.

We approve these names and adopt them as appointments for the triennium January 2022 – December 2024.

We also have the names of Nicholas Paton Philip to serve as Clerk to the Triennial Elders and Overseers Nominations Committee and Julia Furminger to serve as Assistant Clerk to the Triennial Elders and Overseers Nominations Committee from January 2022 – December 2024.

We appoint them accordingly.

2021.074 Nominations

Nominations committee have the following suggestions for service:

Marina Manassei (STO) to serve on the Christmas Parcels committee from September 2021 - August 2024

Carole Pannell (STO) to serve as an Area Meeting Trustee from October 2021 - September 2024

Rae Ritchie (HAR) to serve on Area Meeting Children and Young People's Committee from September 2021 - August 2024

Stephen Holt (WAR) to serve on Trustees' Finance Committee from January 2022 - Dec 2024

Marina Manessei (STO), who has been welcomed to serve as a voluntary chaplain at Russell's Hall hospital by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, to serve as a Quaker Chaplain from September 2021.

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

2021.075 LM Nominations for Area Meeting Nominations Committee

Local Meetings are reminded that there will be a new triennium of AM nominations Committee from January 2022. Please send the names of your nominated representative(s) into the office once they have been approved.

2021.076 Trustee matters

We record that we are tabling a minute from Trustees about a loan to Priory Rooms together with a loan agreement and these will be circulated with the minutes. We will return to this next time.

2021.077 Thanks and next meeting

We thank the Elders serving today and for help with the blended Meeting. We hope to meet again, at Stourbridge QMH on October 16th from 2.00 – 5.00pm. This will be a blended meeting.

Alison Ironside
Clerk