

Minutes of Business Team Meeting held at Taunton MH on August 6th, 2018

18/58 Reading:

Number 24.16 in our book of Faith and Practice was read in our Meeting this evening.

18/59 Those Present:

Sue Brownlie; Brian Collingridge; Huw Morgan; Anna Mullett; Phil Parratt; Martin Wall; Sheila Whitlock.

18/60 Matters On-going:

(1) Joint Special Topic Area Meeting on Mental Health:

Information regarding this Joint Special Topic AM will be re-sent to Local Meeting Clerks with a request to let Martin Wall know the numbers from each LM expected to attend.

(2) Circles South West:

Huw Morgan will email Kate Hothersall in order that we be better informed regarding how the government grant situation is affecting the work of Circles South West.

18/61 Review of New Arrangements for AM:

Strictly speaking this is an “On-going Matter” but there will be several section headings and it will probably be more convenient to deal with this wide topic under a different reference number.

Although not present in this evening's meeting, Chris Lawson was kind enough to provide us with a *modus operandi* which we shall follow.

(1) Changes to BTM 'Terms of Reference' - Confirmation of appointments:

We suggest that the roles of Trustees, Representatives to Meeting for Sufferings, AM representatives to other committees or bodies and all Triennial appointments should be made by Area Meeting in future rather than by the Business Team.

Interim appointments and representatives to conferences can be dealt with by the Business Team between Area Meetings.

We also suggest that Local Meetings be now asked to supply names of Representatives to the Business Team since the present members are approaching the end of their two year tenure.

(2) BTM Agenda:

With reference to Minute 16/66 section '3', “Special Concerns”, we suggest that the following be included after: “We agree that Business Team Meetings should be open to all Friends to attend if they so wish.”

Those wishing to attend are asked to inform the Clerk and can request an agenda in advance. Those wishing to place a particular topic on the BTM Agenda will be sent confirmation with the agenda.

(3) Diagram as simple guide to AM Structure:

We thank Chris Lawson for drawing a diagram representing and clarifying the present AM Structure.

Huw Morgan was asked to contact Chris Lawson in order to further clarify some parts of the diagram.

Consequent to our email communications, Chris will undertake to modify the original Diagram accordingly. This will follow in due course.

(4) Calendar for dates of 2018 AM Meetings:

First some background: The Business Team discussed Minute 18/54 at length, particularly the second bullet point viz. “We would like four rather than three Area Meetings for Business each year and more frequent issues of the Newsletter”.

Several considerations informed this decision which, taken in isolation, might be seen as a retrograde step, having initially decided (see Minute 16/66) that three AMs a year could improve attendance at Area Meetings .

The considerations garnered at the AM of July 21st 2018 were:

(a) Receiving regular reports, local and national, can get lost with the reduced frequency of Area Meetings.

(b) Four Area Meetings a year would be better for Trustees.

(c) More issues of the Newsletter each year would help communications.

The following Minute was agreed upon:

Since the suggestion has come from Area Meeting to reinstate four 'Area Meetings for Business' a year, your Business Team considers that this would increase its workload. Therefore, there should be a concomitant reduction of 'Special Topic Area Meetings' from two to one a year.

18/62 Nominations Committee:

The Name of Kathy Gollin has been brought forward to serve on the 'Taunton Meeting House Management Committee', the Triennial starting from August 1st 2018.

This appointment was approved.

18/63 Agenda for next Business Team:

Phil Parratt has agreed to prepare a draft Calendar of dates for all 'Area Meetings' for 2019. This draft Calendar to be discussed at the next BT Meeting.

18/64 Arrangements for next Area Meeting for Business:

This AM will take place at Wellington MH on November 17th 2018, beginning at 10.00am for 10.15am, and will be no longer than 'morning length'.

Thereafter, the Meeting House will remain open for Friends to eat any packed lunch they may wish to bring with them.

Anna Mullett has agreed to Clerk this Area Meeting, Phil Parratt acting as Assistant Clerk.

18/65 Closing Minute:

We thank Taunton MH for allowing us the use of the large meeting room on this occasion and giving us access to the kitchen and other facilities.

We look forward to meeting here again as a Business Team on October 1st 2018, the Meeting to begin with Silence at 7.00pm.

Huw Morgan
(08/08/2018)
(& 10/08/2018)