

## Minutes for WSAQM Area Meeting April 13th, 2019 at Wellington Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Wellington TA21 8RA

Clerk: Martin Wall. Assistant Clerk: Philip Parratt

19:25 During our opening meeting for Worship A&Q 18 was read.

19:26 Local Meeting Representatives.

Bridgwater	John Sivyver
Burnham on Sea	Carine Allinson
Ilminster	Huw Morgan, Margaret Stenhouse
Minehead	Unable to appoint
Spiceland	Ali Dominy (prevented), Sheila Whitlock
Taunton	John Ainsworth, Angela Ayres
Wellington	Marion Dawson, Elizabeth Aveline
Elder for the Meeting	Marian Dawson

19:27 Membership matters.

a) We record the death of John Anderson died 8/2/2019

John was a long standing and supportive member of Taunton meeting and will be much missed.

b) We record the death of John Spencer died 06/07/2017.

c) We record the death of Becky Elliott died 16/01/2018.

Both were long standing members of Ilminster Meeting and are much missed.

19:28 Nominations.

Representative to Sidcot School General Meeting.

AM nominations has brought forward the name of Meg Winfield to serve for a triennium. We appoint Meg for the triennium from 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

19:29 Reports:

a) Meeting for Sufferings –

- i. Following from the concern from Southern Marshes AM on “The Post Truth World”. Neither of our representatives were able to attend the February meeting of Sufferings where this concern was considered in the light of feedback from Area Meetings. MfS consulted within Yearly

Meeting but was unable to unite on a response. MfS asked Area Meetings to respond locally. We ask that LMs who discussed this concern send their reports to Avril Silk for inclusion in the AM Newsletter.

- ii. *Report on Meeting for Sufferings 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (Fran Hicks). Fran spoke to the report which will be published in our Newsletter. Following a report from the Vibrancy in Meetings Project we are asked to consider how the options proposed in the report might support Quakerism in our areas. Clerks will forward full details to LMs for their discernment.*

b) Churches together in Somerset. (Kathy Gollin and Margaret Stenhouse)

KG and Margaret Stenhouse attended the AGM of Churches Together on 23 February at Wedmore. It was a joyous occasion and we encourage Friends to consider offering service as WSAQM representative to this very worthwhile organisation. We are committed as a Society to working co-operatively with others in response to "turbulent times". A report of the meeting will appear in the Newsletter.

c) Outreach Conference (Helen Parfitt)

Helen Parfitt from Taunton meeting had attended a Quaker "All-age outreach" weekend conference at High Leigh, Herts in February. This was lively and challenging including the question of whether an individual saw "someone like me" within a meeting. The discussion moved between encouraging people to a meeting in a definite time and place and sharing Quakerism in different ways (eg stand up comedy on the Saturday night). Helen will share more at a date to be confirmed. We welcomed Helen's report and thank her for attending the conference.

19:30 Sustainability –

- a) With regard to AM July 21st 2018 Minute 18/47, part of the minute reads - We ask Local meetings to bring forward a Sustainability Plan to a future AM in the Spring of 2019.

We have received reports from.

- i. **Bridgwater** - "Bridgwater Meeting will continue to encourage and support individual members in living their lives in an environmentally sustainable way particularly with a view to limit their individual carbon usage. The Meeting has been informed that the 'Sustainability Toolkit' is available for members to download from the website and that this informs individual action."
- ii. **Burnham** - We don't own a Meeting House and have a very light footprint, as we only meet once a month and are so few. As individuals, we are all doing what we can.

- iii. **Minehead** - We agree to report to Area meeting that we have started our discussions about the sustainability of the meeting (and its members). We shared individual suggestions of members and an audit of actions we have taken in the Meeting House. We agree that we still need to consider formulating a plan for the meeting and include looking at whether we could consider becoming an eco Church and also setting individual targets. We agree to make this the subject of our discussion meeting on April 28th. We think it would be useful for Area Meeting to hold a special Area Meeting to share Local meeting plans.

We ask that Meetings who did not submit a report on a Sustainability Plan endeavour to produce one. The reports will be published in the Newsletter.

- b) How should WSAQM respond one year on from our Special Topic AM on Sustainability?

We have heard from local meetings of the progress they have made in developing their sustainability plans and are encouraged by their work so far. However, we know there is much more to do, especially in view of the recent IPCC report with its urgent message to reduce carbon emissions substantially. The Earth Action Group is happy both to monitor what Local Meetings are doing and to offer support. Taunton has started the process of applying for Eco Church status and Spiceland has already done so. That provides a solid framework for such a plan. A small group of Friends met the Taunton Deane MP, Rebecca Pow, and had a friendly exchange of views and were pleased that she is willing to hold an environmental forum for local groups at Taunton Meeting House in May. Several Friends have been active in the local Extinction Rebellion groups and it is hoped that West Somerset Friends can give this organisation support as has Britain Yearly Meeting.

Clerks will undertake to arrange a Special Topic Area Meeting on Sustainability with the Business Team to include making Sustainability a more central part of our AM organisation.

#### 19:31 Citizens UK – Progress Report.

We have received a report from Fran Hicks in which she records the launch of the Citizens Somerset Chapter of Citizens UK. The alliance is well represented with faith groups and schools, and the event was extensively covered in the media although the local press was disappointing. Transport, Housing and Street Safety are the current concerns that the chapter hopes to develop. A full report will feature in the Newsletter.

#### 19:32 Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer reported on WSAQM Accounts for 2018 and AM budget 2019. Full copies of these will be sent by the Treasurer to LM Treasurers or Clerks.

19:33 Fulfilment of Duties

Reminding LMs (who have not already done so) of the obligation to report to AM using QFP 4:33.

We have received a report from Ilminster Local Meeting – Responsibilities of Local Meetings 2018-19. They have tried to carry out our duties as set out in our Book of Faith and Practice as faithfully and diligently as their ability and means will allow. The meeting has taken a new approach to Duties of Oversight with the formation of two 'home groups.' This has enabled friends to meet in each other's homes while addressing the factors of mobility, access and geography.

19:34 Closing Minute.

We thank Wellington for their hospitality and hope to meet again in Minehead at 10:15. 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Notices

**From AM Calendar:**

Sun	May 19	Worshipping Together at Ilminster
Mon	Jun 3	AM Business Team Taunton
Sun	Jun 16	Worshipping Together at Spiceland

**From Business Team Minutes:**

19/17 Martin Wall told us of progress made in setting up a Joint Area Meeting on Mental Health to follow on from last Year's Special Topic AM. A meeting is arranged Saturday October 5th at Taunton MH involving Mid Somerset, N Somerset, and W Somerset AMs, and inviting AM attendance from Bristol and Exeter.

Dr Quinton Deeley the Chair of the Spiritual Section of Royal College of Psychiatrists will speak on how his spirituality and his practice complement each other, and on issues concerning the current state of Mental Health Services in the UK.

19/22 We remind LMs with Worshipping Together Meetings in the Calendar that they should prepare a Life of Meeting report to give in the Notices period at the end of the Worshipping Together Meeting.