

West Somerset Quaker Area Meeting

Business Team Meeting

June 5th 2017

Minutes

17/47 Reading:

Advices and Queries No. 31 was read in our Meeting today

17/48 Those Present:

BTM Members: Brian Collingridge; Chris Lawson; Huw Morgan; Anna Mullett Phil Parrat; Martin Wall; Apologies: Sue Brownlie.

AM Member: Sheila Whitlock

17/49 On-going Matters:

(a) Further to 17/43 – Living Wage Survey:

As an Area Meeting, one person is employed by us. There are others who are self-employed. Accreditation as a 'Living Wage Employer' is not thought appropriate. The results will be forwarded to Lancaster Meeting by Anna Mullett our Correspondence Clerk.

(b) Further to 17/37 (a) – SACRE – Acceptability (or otherwise) of additional AM rep.:
Carried forward.

(c) Further to 17/39 (b) – Job descriptions of all posts:

The Clerk of Nominations Committee has job descriptions for some roles but the Committee needs to work on a complete set.

(d) Further to 17/39 (c) – Clarification of AM appointments:

Anna and Chris advise that that the present situation over Nominations at AM level is;

(1) Nominations direct from LMs to AM (by Minute of the PM):

- Trustees;
- Elders and Overseers;
- Representatives to AM Nominations Committee.

(2) Nomination of Clerk of Trustees comes direct from Trustees to AM.

(3) All other Area Meeting appointments come through the AM Nominations Committee.

We agree that this is the present situation regarding Nominations at Area Meeting level.

- (e) Further to 17/41 (b) – Special topic AM on ‘Homelessness’ set for September 16th.
(A concern was expressed that there might not be sufficient time or even numbers attending in the afternoon session for proper discernment)
We suggest that there should be prepared an “End of Morning Minute” which will sum up the points which need discernment during the afternoon session.

17/50 Membership Matters:

Deaths

We record the death earlier this year of Miriam Bligh of Taunton Meeting, who had moved to Cornwall without transferring her Membership and of Elizabeth Carlisle of Bridgwater Meeting on December 24th 2016.

Updating of Membership Records

Chris Lawson has consulted with Members of LMs to clarify the situation in relation to a number of people who are in our records as Members, but for whom contact has been lost or have moved away or have no active link with their LM.
He has produced a report.

We agree to his suggestion for further fact-finding in relation to these so that a fuller report can be made to AM with recommendations for transfer or termination of Membership in some cases.

Application for Membership

Charles Henderson, an attender at Taunton Meeting, has applied for Membership. Gilly Lee and Peter Burgoine will visit him and, it is hoped, report to AM in July.

Transfer of Membership

A request for transfer of Membership for Peter Wood has been received from Devon AM. Contact with Peter has not yet been achieved so this matter remains ‘pending’.

17/51 Nominations:

- (a) Spiceland Meeting has nominated Kathy Gollin as a Trustee.
(b) Wellington Meeting has nominated Brian Collingridge as a Trustee.

We confirm the appointment of Kathy Gollin of Spiceland and Brian Collingridge of Wellington as Trustees. Margaret Stocks, as Clerk to Trustees, will be informed of these Appointments.

17/52 Finances:

The accounts for 2016 have been prepared and are awaiting examination and auditing.

Monthly LM accounts have been issued to LM Treasurers and Centralisation is on-going.

The full Financial Report will be available by the November Area Meeting.

It is expected that the next full Financial Report will be available by the first AM for Business of next year.

It is hoped that, eventually, all LMs should prepare their own budget as some are already doing.

In September, Phil Parrat, our AM Treasurer will be issuing guidance to Local Meetings regarding the level of hoped-for contributions in support of Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting. The AM Treasurer will make himself available at Local Meetings to answer any and all queries regarding these future contributions.

And also in relation to AM Finances:

A Special Area Meeting for Discernment may soon be required regarding the future of our Meeting Houses.

17/53 Correspondence:

(a) Newsletter - We support the suggestion that the Newsletter should appear a fortnight, or thereabouts, after each Area Meeting for Business. This means there will be three Newsletters during the year.

(b) Publication of Minutes on our website – It was agreed that the Minutes of BTM should be passed to Gary Auger for publication.

(c) BTM representation on Trustees – BTM now has two representatives on Trustees

(d) Circulation of Agenda well in advance of Meetings – since items for discussion are being continually added to agendas right up to the date of the meeting, it was agreed that we should continue as at present.

(e) Other Matters:

(i) Pip Harris, our regional 'Vibrancy in Meeting' contact, has expressed a wish to attend our July AM in Spiceland. We look forward to meeting her again.

(ii) Contributions to Disability Equality Group – this correspondence has already gone to LMs.

(iii) 'Festival of Peace' at Sidcot – We received colourfully printed invitations for this event to be held on June 18th. We hope that Kate Warren will speak of this when giving her report at July's AM.

(iv) Email Protocol – It was agreed that, having received an email from another Business Team Meeting Member, an email confirming that receipt should always be sent.

17/54 Agenda for AM for Business on July 15th:

- (a) Laying down of 'Outreach Group' – a person from within the Group will be asked to speak to this.
- (b) AM Representatives' Reports:
 - (i) Sidcot General Meeting (Kate Warren)
 - (ii) QPSW Conference of March 2017 (Matt Wall)
 - (iii) Work of 'Quaker Life' (Margaret Stenhouse)
 - (iv) Meeting for Sufferings of June 3rd (Malcolm Elliott)
- (c) Local Meeting Report for Spiceland (Patricia Robertson)
- (d) Local Meeting Report for Minehead – this will have been given at the AMfW at Minehead (June 18th) and will appear in full in the next Newsletter.

17/55 Co-Clerking at next AM for Business:

The Co-clerks will be Huw Morgan and Phil Parrat.

17/56 Closing Minute:

We thank Minehead for their hospitality this evening and Chris Lawson for the reviving tea, coffee and cake. We hope to meet again in Taunton on August 28th at 7.00 pm.

Huw Morgan (13/06/2017)