

## **Minutes of Area Meeting Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Wellington**

### **17/87 Advices and Queries**

Advices & Queries No 17 has been read in our worship.

### **17/88 Representatives**

**Minehead** Chris Lawson, Irene Murphy  
**Iminster** Margaret Stenhouse  
**Spiceland** Sheila Whitlock  
**Taunton** Fran Hicks, Charles Henderson  
**Bridgwater** Sue Brownlie  
**Wellington** Brian Collingridge  
**Burnham** Unable to appoint

**Supporting Elder** Marian Dawson

### **17/89 Membership**

The following minute was agreed regarding lapsed membership:

a) Loetitia Grant of Wellington LM has moved away from this area and has said that she does not wish to remain on our list of Members.

*We agree to terminate her membership as allowed by QFP 11.30(a).*

b) All contact has been lost by their Local Meeting for a number of years with the following Members: Penni Blythe of Taunton LM, Ruth Sewell of Spiceland Meeting and Christine Harvey-Williams and Janet Wood of Wellington Meeting, nor are they known about in the areas to which they are thought to have moved.

*We agree to terminate their membership as allowed by QFP 11.30(b).*

c) Our Membership Clerk is aware of a number of other Members with whom links are tenuous or former and is working with their LMs to clarify the situation.

It was suggested the Business team consider the lapsed membership policies of other AMs. Cornwall and Cumbria were named.

We have heard the report of the visit by Margaret Stocks and Margaret Stenhouse to Sally Nex on 9<sup>th</sup> November and are glad to accept Sally into membership. Her name will be added to the Iminster list. We ask Martin Wall to visit Sally and welcome her.

We record the solemnisation of marriage between Philip Stephen Sorrell, not in Membership, and Sarah Jane Pascall Member of West Somerset Area Meeting at Wellington Meeting House at 2.30pm on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

### **17/90 AM Calendar for 2018**

The calendar has been circulated to Friends. Any changes should be made to Chris Lawson as soon as possible. Cards will be printed in the New Year and the calendar put on the website.

### **17/91 Annual Accounts**

The Annual accounts for 2016 have been circulated and our treasurer Phil Parratt gave an aural account to the meeting. He confirmed that the employment of a warden at Taunton Meeting House is both financially viable and preferable to alternatives.

**Correction.** The new valuation of TMH stands at **£525,000** and not £450,000 as in the earlier minute. Notes will appear in the 2017 accounts. We thank the treasurer for his work on these and accept them as presented.

### **17/91 Nominations**

The following nominations were appointed:

Elders and overseers:

**Minehead** Elders: – Faith Cartright, George Macpherson, Irene Murphy.

Overseers: - Peter Atherton, Kate Warren, Gian Zucchelli

**Spiceland:** Jen Bell has been nominated as the new Elder.

**Taunton:** Elders: Fran Hicks, Sheila Harvey until the end of 2018, Anne Jackson-Wilde. Convenors of Overseers: Andy Anderson, Pauline Reimers

**Iminster** – Elder: Eve Northey. Overseers: Eve Northey, Huw Morgan

**Bridgwater:** Elders: Shirley Anthony, Steve Trelfa. Overseers: Valerie Pennock, Gilly Lee

Trustees:

**Taunton:** Margaret Stocks is continuing in this role until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Charles Henderson has agreed to serve as second Trustee. Margaret will continue as co-clerk of Trustees for 2018 and Kathy Gollin will co-clerk with Margaret.

**AM Nominations Committee.** Chris Lawson is laying this down. Gian Zucchelli will replace Chris as Minehead representative.

**AM Funeral Advisors.** Rosemary Dagley is laying this down. Shirley Anthony will replace Rosemary as Bridgwater representative.

**Forum for Mental Health** at York. Steve Sharples from Iminster meeting has asked to be our representative and has been duly appointed by the Business Team.

It was suggested that nominations for AM appointments could be sent out in advance by the Business Team for Friends to consider and any concerns referred back to the BT by a decided date, otherwise the names would be confirmed by AM. If a nomination required reconsideration this would not be brought to AM but resolved in advance by the BT and LM elders.

We were made aware that Iminster has currently only two people acting as elder and overseers. We were advised that Iminster is considering shared oversight and will seek advice from Taunton meeting.

### **17/92 Vision for Taunton**

The minute for the Vision for Taunton has been circulated. We ask TMG to respond to the minute prior to bringing it to a future AM. It has been suggested that a former minute from Taunton LM in July be considered by TMG.

### **17/93 Alignment of Taunton Meeting with Citizens UK.**

Taunton LM has discerned that it would wish to be part of a future alliance with Citizens UK in Taunton, which is made up of local organisations with social concerns working together for the long term. As part of Quakers looking at Faith in Action, this year's BYM included a speaker from Citizens UK. The real Living Wage is an example of Citizen UK's work. It was felt that the organisation meets our testimonies for social change and an opportunity to act on our concerns as a Quaker community in Taunton, as well as outreach. We were glad to note the Concern of Taunton meeting and that the LM can meet the initial donation costs of £1000 over two years. Whether or not AM should adopt Citizens UK as an AM Concern is a matter to be brought to a future AM.

### **17/94 Homelessness**

As a response to the special meeting on Homelessness Sue Brownlie has suggested opening Taunton meeting house on Saturday evenings for Friends to meet for a singalong and tai chi movements and prepare soup and possibly pizza for rough sleepers in doorways in Taunton. Sue's personal safety is a concern so hopefully at least 6 people would be there to support her. It was agreed to support Sue's idea and a necessary Food and Hygiene certificate would be financed by the Assistance Fund. We have heard there are wider problems of homelessness and how Citizens UK could become involved. It was suggested that liaising with Taunton street pastors would be important for giving support to Sue's initiative.

### **17/95 Reports**

Due to lack of time, Life of the Meeting reports from Wellington, Taunton and Ilminster, and also the Meeting for Sufferings report were deferred to the next BTM and will be published in the newsletter.

### **17/96 Closing minute**

We thank Wellington for their hospitality and hope to meet again in Taunton for our next Business Meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> and for AM on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2018.