

West Somerset Quaker Area Meeting

Business Team Meeting

April 24th 2017

Minutes

17/35 Reading:

Advices and Queries No. 1.02.06 was read at our Meeting today.

17/36 Business Team Members present:

Sue Brownlie; Chris Lawson; Huw Morgan; Anna Mullet; Martin Wall.

Apologies from Brian Collingridge and Phil Parrat.

17/37 Ongoing Matters: Follow-up to last Area Meeting of March 18th

(a) A correction to minute 17/26.

The body referred to as "SACRE" is in fact the
"Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education".

Further to the appointment of Richard Salter as the Area Meeting Representative to that body, Sue Brownlie will make enquiries as to whether it would be acceptable to both 'SACRE' and Area Meeting if an additional representative were appointed.

(b) Further to Minute 17/30 re. "All Age Meeting":

It will be up to the Local Meeting hosting the 'AM Meeting for Worship' to advise the 'Childrens' Committee' (through Vicki Ross, Matt Wall or Sue Brownlie) whether or **not** they are intending that their AM MfW will be an 'All Age Meeting'.

(c) Further to minute 17/11 "AM 'MfW'" at Milverton:

Huw Morgan will contact Brian Collingridge as the most appropriate person, to undertake to inform LM Clerks of details regarding this Meeting.

17/38 Membership Matters:

- (a) A list of WSAQM members serving on national Quaker committees as at 20/4/2017 has been compiled by our Membership Clerk.
They are as follows:

Bridgwater: Steve Trefla on Meeting Houses Management Group (is this a YM or QHS group?)

Burnham-on-Sea: Carinne Allinson, Deputy AM rep to Quaker Life.

Iminster: Malcolm Elliott, Alternate AM rep to Meeting for Sufferings.

Margaret Stenhouse, AM rep to Quaker Life.

Minehead: Kate Warren, AM rep to Sidcot General Meeting

Taunton: Fran Hicks on YM Agenda Committee

Spiceland: Kathy Gollin on YM Stewardship Committee and AM rep to Meeting for Sufferings.

Wellington: Alan Keith on BYM Trustees Finance and Property Sub-Group.

Zoe Ainsworth-Grigg, Correspondent for Quaker Committee on Christian and Inter-Faith Relations (and AM rep for Somerset Churches Together).

(b) Transfer:

Jillian Hogwood of West Wilts and East Somerset Area Quaker Meeting has asked for her Membership to be transferred to our Area Meeting and to Minehead Local Meeting.

We accept the transfer. Our Membership Clerk will send the Acceptance Certificate and arrange for a Friend to welcome her.

(c) Application:

Ali Dominy of Spiceland Local Meeting has written applying for Membership.

We ask Spiceland Elders to appoint one visitor and have suggested names of Friends for the second.

Our Membership Clerk and Martin Wall will make the approaches.

We hope a report can come to Area Meeting on July 15th.

17/39 Nominations:

(a) Peter Burgoine has put his name forward to rejoin the Taunton Meeting House Management Committee. The Committee is happy with this request.

We agree to this appointment - from June 2017 for three years (till June 2020)

(b) An appointee to any post should be given a 'Job description' for that post and we encourage Nominations Committee to have 'Job descriptions' for each appointment.

(c) We ask Chris and Anna to work on and to clarify Area Meeting appointments recommended by either Nominations Committee or Local Meetings.

(d) When anyone lays down an appointment the person should be verbally thanked at Area Meeting and that 'Thanks' recorded in the Minutes.

- (e) Elders and Overseers are nominated by Local Meetings and the appointment is then **made** by Area Meeting. It clearly lies within the remit of Business Team Meeting to confirm such appointments on Area Meeting's behalf.

17/40 Elders and Overseers:

The appointment of Ali Dominy as Overseer to Spiceland Local Meeting is confirmed.

17/41 Special Topic Area Meeting:

(a) Quaker Tapestry:

Everything is in hand for this forthcoming 'Special Topic AM' to take place at Wellington Meeting House on Saturday 13th May.

The flyer produced for this Special Topic AM is located in the "Associated Documents" file.

(b) Homelessness:

It was felt that, rather than concentrate on what part, if any, Taunton Meeting House can play in alleviating the suffering of the Taunton Homeless, it would be helpful to gain an appreciation of the problem as it affects our county of Somerset more generally.

It would be useful if the Special Topic AM were to last the whole day where the morning would be given over to speakers from charities already providing for the homeless and the afternoon for discerning the way forward.

Martin Wall will book Taunton MH for Saturday September 13th and liaise with Sue Brownlie.

(c) Mental Health in Meetings:

Arrangements for this are ongoing.

17/42 Outreach Committee's request to be laid down:

This matter should go forward to Area Meeting for further discussion regarding 'Outreach' in general in our Area Meeting.

It would be appropriate if a member of Outreach Committee be asked to introduce this at the next AM. Suggestions were either, Kathy Gollin, Avril Silk or Fran Hicks.

17/43 Monthly Mailing:

The matter of 'Economic Justice' which concerns the 'pay and conditions' of any and all persons employed by Local Meetings requires form filling.

Our 'Correspondence Clerk' will send the relevant form to Local Meeting Clerks to be filled in and returned before Yearly Meeting Gathering.

17/44 Agenda for next AM at Spiceland on July 15:

Agenda to include:

(a) Finances:

There is concern about the state of our Area Meeting finances, within and between the various committees and the lack of financial information available to AM.

Phil Parrat will be asked to give, as soon as is convenient, if not a full financial report, a general update and overview of AM finances.

(b) Reports;

The following will be asked to give reports at the Area Meeting on July 15th:

Kate Warren to report on Sidcot General Meeting;

Matt Wall to report on the QPSW Conference held at Swanwick in March 2017;

Margaret Stenhouse to report on the work of Quaker Life.

17/45 Clerking at Spiceland on July 15th:

For the sake of continuity, it was considered that Clerk and Co-Clerk should perform their duties for two consecutive Area Meetings.

Unfortunately, it will be impossible for Martin Wall to attend the above AM.

Huw Morgan is intending to be present.

17/46 Closing Minute:

We thank Anna Mullett for hosting this Meeting at her home and her provision of refreshment and sustenance.

We hope to meet again when the next Business Team Meeting is set for June 5th at Minehead Meeting House starting at 7.00 pm (19.00 hrs).

Huw Morgan (10/05/2017)

