

## WSQAM Business Team Meeting Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Taunton MH.

### Minutes:

#### **18/01 Reading:**

Section 14 of our Advices and Queries was read in our Meeting this evening.

#### **18/02 Those Present:**

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

#### **18/03 Matters On-going:**

(a) Special Topic Area Meeting of May 19<sup>th</sup>:

These 'Preliminary thoughts' were received from our Earth Action Group:

*"A 'World Cafe' set up is suggested where people can discuss the topic they feel most passionate about – ranging from economics, divestment, air pollution, plastics, fracking, home energy and becoming 'Eco-churches' – the latter acknowledging Ireland Yearly Meeting's initiative requesting each Meeting to draw up sustainability plans.*

*It is hoped to engage the services of Gill Westcott of Exeter Meeting as a facilitator on the day which, if possible, should include an afternoon session – the various ideas and action points generated within the groups will then be fed back to the wider meeting.*

*It was felt that the Spiritual Dimension of looking after our world should receive special emphasis. It is also hoped to involve children in some way".*

The Business Team is content that things are in hand with respect to the Special Topic AM of May 19<sup>th</sup>.

(b) Request to attend AM by Circles South West:

Kate Hothersall is unavailable on the day and has arranged for her colleague Sara Radford to attend in her stead.

Sara Radford will be informed that she will have a 15 minute slot in the morning during which to address the meeting and answer questions. Huw Morgan will contact her.

(c) Implications of QF&P 4.33 and 4.34:

Anna Mullett, our Correspondence Clerk will ask Local Meetings to assess to what extent they are meeting the obligations set out in 4.33 and 4.34 and prepare a report for next AM for Business (March 17<sup>th</sup>).

(d) Special Topic Area Meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018:

For this Meeting, Martin Wall informs us that Mid Somerset and North Somerset Area Meetings have agreed to a joint Meeting with West Somerset AM.

Alison Mitchell, Mental Health Development Officer, has agreed to lead the Meeting.

Jane Wilson, Richard Porter and Mavis Iredale from Mid Somerset and Jan Bond with Enid Smith from North Somerset have been asked by their respective AMs to take this forward.

We are currently arranging a Planning Meeting, provisionally at Taunton Meeting House.

#### **18/04 Correspondence:**

(a) Fulfilment of Local Meeting Duties – Taunton LM:

We thank Taunton Local Meeting for this report.

(b) Suggestion:

We received the following suggestion from Taunton LM:

*“That we have a regular number of sessions – possibly in different areas of the AM – for enquirers, attenders and anyone else, to address, ‘What you want to know about Quakers but were afraid to ask’. It would be based round the resource ‘A day with Friends’.*

*This arose because a couple of attenders at Taunton expressed a wish to understand our structures a bit better and the way we do things. It seemed to us that putting in the AM diary one or two sessions a year – or more – for new or older Friends, who realised there were some questions they needed to ask, would be really helpful”.*

We hope that this suggestion can be placed on the agenda of the next AM for Business.

#### **18/05 Membership:**

(a) Death:

We record the death, in the latter part of 2017, of Douglas Butler of Ilminster Meeting.

(b) Tabular Statement:

The annual statistical statement has been completed and sent to Friends House. It shows the membership of our Area Meeting at the end of 2017 remained at 139. We gained 5 Members by convincement and 5 transfers. We lost 4 Members by death and 6 by termination of membership. It was estimated that there were 81 attenders and 22 children associated with our Meetings at the start of 2018.

(c) Contact List:

Chris Lawson reports that, with the help of Clerks and others in LMs, he revised the contact list and has published a new one at the start of 2018. Printed and on-line copies are available. Gary Auger has taken on responsibility for up-dating the list that is available on the AM Website, so changes should be sent to him henceforth. Chris also reports that the card index of

Membership Records has been carefully checked and a full list of those in membership has been prepared and is available from him. LMs wishing to receive additional copies of the new yellow Contact List should contact Phil Parratt.

(d) Membership Clerk:

As Chris Lawson expects to be moving away from our area later this year, he needs to pass on the responsibilities of Membership Clerk and Contact List Preparation to someone else. We think that the Membership Clerk should be a member of this BTM.

Anna Mullett will take the matter of 'Membership Clerk' to 'Nominations' which is meeting on Thursday 8th.

Chris will write a resume of the role of Membership Clerk.

Consequent to Minute 17/99 (c), Chris has also written down the procedure used with regard to Members with whom contact had been lost and whether they should become 'Lapsed Members' or not.

We thank Chris for his work on this.

**18/06 Nominations:**

The following Nominations have been received:

Malcolm Elliott has laid down the role of 'Meeting for Sufferings Alternate Representative'. Fran Hicks' Name has been put forward to replace him.

Brian Collingridge's name has been put forward as 'Custodian of Milverton Burial Ground'.

Ruth Wall's name has been put forward as 'Children's and Young People's Advocate'.

Wellington Elder and Overseers – the following names have been brought forward by Wellington Meeting:

'Elders':- Marian Dawson; Elizabeth Aveline; Alan Keith.

'Overseers':- Avril Silk; Georgina Cardew.

The name of Ali Dominy has been put forward by Spiceland as 'Overseer'.

These nominations have been accepted.

**18/07 Restructuring of posts at Spiceland:**

We have heard from Sheila Whitlock of the new arrangement with regard to Es & Os in use at Spiceland which entailed the creation of a Central Group of Six Members jointly covering the roles of Es & Os. This written explanation was also provided:

*Spiceland Central Group (CG) - An Experiment in finding a new way of working.*

*This group was set up just over a year ago in response to a situation where Friends responsible for Nominations were finding it increasingly hard to fill vital 'posts'. This was due to a dropping off of members, an influx of new ones and burn-out by those who have filled them repeatedly in the past. We have had to evolve and find new ways of working.*

*The idea of the 'CG' is that we take on the responsibilities of Elders and Overseers together, trying our best to follow the guidelines for the responsibilities of E's and O's as set out in the 'Woodbrooke Document' (a slightly simplified version of that in QF&P).*

*The group consists of six members with one named Friend to act as initial contact for Overseers and one for Elders.*

*We meet monthly, compiling an agenda of on-going matters and bring up new ones from the previous month. The work to be carried out in connection with each item on the agenda is assigned to one or more members of the group. Correspondence on these matters is sent to all members of the group.*

*Each year, one or two members of the group will lay down their responsibility, leaving a core of members for the following year.*

**18/08 Attender as first-time Area Meeting representative:**

Since this Area Meeting has decided that, as far as possible, there shall be no differentiation between Attenders and Members, then it is not necessary to ask for permission to attend an Area Meeting.

**18/09 Fire precautions and dedicated Fire Officer:**

This item should more appropriately be brought to the next Trustees Meeting.

**18/10 Website Up-dating:**

It was brought to our attention that our Website is in dire need of updating - Martin Wall having compiled a detailed, itemised list.

Up-dating is the responsibility of Local Meetings. Each LM needs to review their own web-page every few months and this to be minuted.

Gary Auger will do any updating he is required to do on request.

Chris Lawson will send the new Calendar to Gary Auger.

Huw Morgan was reminded to send the Minutes of the last Business Team Meeting (that of December 4<sup>th</sup>) to Gary Auger to be placed on the Website.

**18/11 Clerking of next Area Meeting:**

At the next Area Meeting for Business scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at Taunton, the Clerk will be Anna Mullett and the Assistant Clerk Phil Parratt.

**18/12 Closing Minute:**

We thank Taunton Meeting House for making this cosy room available for our Meeting this evening and for allowing access to the kitchen. We look forward to meeting again as a Business Team on April 16<sup>th</sup>, at Taunton.

{Huw Morgan (07/02/2018)}