

**WSQAM Business Team Meeting, evening of Dec 4<sup>th</sup> held at Taunton Meeting House.**

**Minutes:**

**17/97 Reading:**

Section 5 of our Advices and Queries was read in our Meeting this evening.

**17/98 Those Present:**

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

**17/99 Matters On-going:**

- (a) We have heard the Report of Meeting for Sufferings held at Manchester on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and we thank Malcolm Elliott for his report which is appended to these Minutes.
- (b) It was thought that a Food and Hygiene Certificate, though desirable, was not a legal requirement and that since Sue Browlie as had accredited training in the past the lack of a Certificate should not hinder progress on this issue.
- (c) We thank our Membership Clerk and Kathy Gollin for sharing with this Business Team Meeting the protocol for lapsed Members used by Devon Area Meeting.  
We acknowledge the need for care and tact in any procedure.  
Chris Lawson will write of his recent experiences in tracking down lapsed Members for use as guidelines for the future.

**17/100 Membership Matters:**

- (a) Minute of Record:  
Certain certificates requesting 'Transfer of Membership' and acceptance of transfer, having recently come to light, have been passed to our Membership Clerk.
- (b) Transfer:  
We have received a Transfer of Membership Certificate from North Somerset AM from Elizabeth (Liz) Aveline (now Aveline-McPherson); She is attending Wellington Meeting and we are glad to accept her.  
Brian Collingridge has agreed to welcome her on behalf of our AM.

**17/101 Special Topic Area Meeting (STAM):**

- (a) Our Earth Action Group (EAG) has requested to run a full STAM.  
This has been agreed and the next STAM, to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, will be offered to EAG.
- (b) Mental Health – Martin Wall will liaise with Mid-Somerset and North Somerset AMs in order to see whether the date set aside for our autumn STAM is suitable and if not to find a mutually convenient date.

#### **17/102 Finalising Calendar:**

The Calendar of Events for 2018 has been agreed.

It will be printed in due course but will also be appended to these Minutes.

#### **17/103 Agenda for next BTM and/or AM for Business:**

- (a) Since 'Circle South West' is a Quaker initiative and well merits time at our AMfB, it will be offered a slot at our AM on March 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Huw Morgan will contact Kate Hothersall informing her of that offer. If that date is not convenient then there will be other opportunities during the year.
- (b) Phil Parratt will ask Margaret Stocks, as Co-Clerk of Trustees, to let us know when her report to AM will be ready so that a suitable time may be offered her.
- (c) From January, Gary Auger, our Website Manager, is prepared to up-date the Membership contact list on our AM Website.  
We thank him for his readiness to do so.
- (d) BTM will consider the implications of sections 4.33 and 4.34 of the current 'Quaker Faith and Practice'.

#### **Appendix:**

The Report of Meeting for Sufferings held in Manchester on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the Calendar of Events for 2018 is appended.

Huw Morgan: - 06/12/2017

## West Somerset Area Quaker Meeting

### Calendar of AM dates for 2018 (as known at 5.12.17)

To fit the proposals for the new way of being the AM, continuing the pattern for 2017, i.e.

3 main Area Meetings per year on third Saturdays

2 opportunities for Area Meetings on special topics on third Saturdays

- Taunton and Wellington used for venues for overall convenience

5 Area Meeting meetings for worship hosted by different Local Meetings, usually on third Sundays

- All meetings used for venues in rotation (tho' Minehead in June is nice for seaside)

Area Meeting Business Team Meetings for routine matters between AMs, usually on Mondays

- Venues to suit Team

AM Elders and Overseers or other groups' organised events

February	Monday Feb 5:	AM Business Team meeting at Taunton
March	Sunday March 4:	AM Meeting for Worship at Burnham
	Saturday March 17:	AM at Taunton
	Saturday March 24:	AM E&Os at Minehead
April	<i>(Easter weekend is March 30-April 2)</i>	
	Monday April 16:	AM Business Team meeting at Taunton
	Sunday April 22:	AM Meeting for Worship at Spiceland
	Saturday April 28:	"Appleseed" spiritual nurture day at Taunton
May	<i>(Yearly Meeting is in London May 4-7)</i>	
	Saturday May 19:	Special Topic AM at Wellington
June	Monday June 4:	AM Business Team meeting
	Saturday June 9:	Quiet Day at Spiceland
	Sunday June 17:	AM Meeting for Worship at Minehead
July	Saturday July 21:	AM at Spiceland
August	Monday Aug 6:	AM Business Team meeting
	Sunday August 19:	AM Meeting for Worship at Wellington
September	<i>Weekend of Sept 14-16</i>	
	Saturday Sept 22:	Special Topic AM at Taunton
October	Monday Oct 1:	AM Business Team meeting
	Saturday October 6:	AM E&Os at Spiceland
	Sunday Oct 21:	AM Meeting for Worship at Bridgwater
November	Saturday November 17:	AM at Wellington
	Saturday November 24:	Second "Appleseed" spiritual nurture day at Wellington
December	Monday Dec 3:	AM Business Team meeting
2019	Next AM Meetings for Worship at Ilminster and Taunton	

### **Report of Meeting for Sufferings in Manchester 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Some of the most exciting moments came in the last session, dedicated to the outreach work of Friends House. We were given a breakdown of various forms of advertising used by Friends: press adverts, twitter and facebook, enquirer's packs, website, work in schools and colleges etc. But we were reminded that 'every Quaker is a communicator' and urged to 'let our lives speak'.

We were urged to use our meeting house premises by joining with other churches and faiths to reach out to the local community in responding to local needs: opening our meeting houses for food banks, groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and asylum seekers. Do we have a web site and use social media? Do we engage with local press and radio or lobby our M.P.s on issues of concern? There was much heart-searching on our lack of diversity (white, middle class and elderly) but also urged not to feel guilty about this.

Ingrid Greenhow gave a lively address on Friends House Hospitality. Last year it had proved popular and commercially successful with a turnover of £3.7 million. The cafe sales had reached £337,000 and we welcomed over a third of a million visitors through the doors. The only slight concern was over the loss of £60,000 on the restaurant but this was being investigated. The standard of meals there continues to be of the highest quality and Friends House as a whole recently won an award for reducing its carbon footprint by 29% since 2009.

We heard a report on the Sanctuary Everywhere manifesto, stating that 'no person should be discriminated against because of who they are or where they are born', resisting racism and bigotry and stating that: 'It is impossible for a human being to be illegal'. The only discordant note in the day came when someone asked if that amounted to free and unlimited immigration without any attempt to control numbers. Friends were a little confused on this issue.