

**Minutes of West Somerset Area Meeting at Wellington Meeting House 17th
November 2018**

18/78 Reading

Advices and Queries 17 was read in our Worship today.

18/79 Local Meeting Representatives

Bridgwater	Phil Parratt
Ilminster	Huw Morgan, Margaret Stenhouse
Minehead	Faith Cartwright
Spiceland	Pat Ebdon, Sheila Whitlock, John Hampshire
Taunton	Angela Ayres, Lynda Stewart
Wellington	Marian Dawson
Burnham	Unable to appoint

Supporting Elder Margaret Stenhouse

18/80 Minutes of Last Meeting

Outstanding items from the previous meeting have been brought forward to today's agenda.

18/81 Membership Matters

We have heard a report from Martin Wall of the visit he and Steven Trelfa made to John Sivyer on 10th September. We are very pleased to welcome John into membership. Kathy Gollin will visit John and welcome him on behalf of the Area Meeting. His name will be added to the list of Bridgwater's members.

18/82 Minute of Record

We record the death of our Friend James Hayllar on September 1st this year. James was a long-standing and much loved member of Ilminster Meeting and will be greatly missed.

We record the death of Janet MacDonald on July 30th his year. Janet was a much valued member of Wellington Meeting for many years.

18/82 Thanks to Retiring Friends

On behalf of our Area Meeting we would like to thank our Friends Chris and Christina Lawson who have served the Area Meeting faithfully for many years. We agree to send them a card to thank them and wish them well in their new life. We also thank Minehead meeting for the farewell party which they gave Chris and Christina on November 4th.

18/83 Trustees Report and AM Policies

Kathy Gollin gave us highlights of the Trustees' Report. Trustees have made visits to local meetings over the year including Ilminster, Spiceland and Wellington Meetings. The full report will be in the Newsletter. More Trustees are needed urgently and Friends are asked to consider service.

The Policies and Communication sub-group have been collating policies for the Area Meeting which are now available for Local Meetings and the public. All LM reps present received a folder containing the policies. If a policy needs to be changed it can be amended and replaced in the folder. AM approved the policies and this approval document will be placed at the front of the file. We thank Margaret Stocks and Faith Cartright for their work on this.

Friends queried the possibility of having a policy on Lettings. At the moment LM's have their individual lettings agreements. The Policy and Communication sub-group agreed to look at forming a policy in the New Year. Information on lettings is available through a wardenship network.

18/84 Citizens UK

Charles Henderson informed us of a meeting of delegates on 3rd October which formed an important step in creating a Citizens UK chapter in Taunton and West Somerset. The Listening Campaign continues responding to the community's needs and concerns. There will be a public event on February 11th at the Taunton Methodist Church. Our treasurer reported that we do not have the resources to make substantial donations to Citizens UK. The question of the Area Meeting's commitment to Citizens UK will be on the AM agenda in January.

18/85 WSAQM Structure

The diagram of the structure of the Area Meeting created by Chris Lawson has been circulated. The diagram was agreed acceptable to Friends without alteration.

18/86 WSAQM Calendar

It was proposed and agreed that the date for Area Meeting at Wellington should be changed from Saturday the 20th to the 13th April.

It was suggested that a programme of events should be circulated to inform Friends and ensure that events do not overlap. Events should be publicised through the AM website and updated on the AM Calendar. This process will be added to the next BTM agenda for clarification.

18/87 Nominations

The names of John Ainsworth and Margaret Stocks have been put forward to serve as elders at Taunton Meeting beginning in January 2019 for the triennium.

Margaret Stocks has also agreed to serve as a Trustee for one year until the end of 2019.

John Sivyer's name has been put forward to serve as an overseer for Bridgwater Meeting to serve from today until the end of 2021.

These appointments were acceptable to Friends.

18/88 AM Business Team for 2019

As it has not been possible to find two co-clerks to clerk the Area Meeting next year, the Business Team is continuing in its present form. Although some Friends from the existing team have agreed to serve for another year it is very important that more Friends join the team in order to be in a position to

continue when present members will be laying this down. We ask all Local Meetings to seek to appoint a new representative to the team for 2019.

18/89 Reports

We thank Taunton for their Meeting report which has been circulated.

The report from Meeting for Sufferings has been circulated. Kathy Gollin asked whether the questions of diversity raised by Sufferings have been considered by Local Meetings.

Margaret Stenhouse's report on Quaker Life has been circulated. Margaret added that the question of diversity also formed an important part of the gathering.

All three reports will be printed in the Newsletter.

18/90 Spiceland Burial Ground Leaflet.

Following the need to reprint the leaflet, changes and amendments have been passed to Local Meetings. The Area Meeting agrees with the changes and asks Spiceland to proceed with printing the leaflet. We thank Spiceland for their work on this.

18/91 Notices

Open Door Café for the Homeless in Taunton was closed during Christmas week last year. As it will be closed again this year for some of the Christmas week, Sue Brownlie suggested that Friends might be willing to help keep the café open by serving breakfasts during the week. If you feel you can help please contact Sue.

Avril Silk advised us that the last date for copy for the Newsletter is November 30th.

18/92 Closing Minute

We thank Wellington Meeting for their hospitality. The Business Team will meet again on Monday 3rd December at 7pm.