

Minutes of WSAQM Area Meeting January 25th 2020 at Taunton Meeting House, Bath Place Taunton TA1 4EP

Clerks: Martin Wall Anna Mullett

01/20 Advices and Queries 10 was read in our opening worship today.

02/20 Local Meeting Representatives:

Bridgwater	Rosemary Dagley
Burnham on Sea	Carinne Allinson
Ilminster	Huw Morgan, Miranda Ball
Minehead	Faith Cartright
Spiceland	Sheila Whitlock, Pat Robertson
Taunton	Pat Bazley, Fran Hicks
Wellington	Marian Dawson
Elder for the Meeting	John Ainsworth

03/20 Membership Matters

(a) We have heard the report of a visit to Sarah Bovey by Sheila Whitlock and Phil Parratt and are happy to welcome Sarah into our AM. We appoint John Ainsworth and Ali Dominy to visit Sarah and welcome her.

(b) We record the transfer of membership of Valda Dagnell from Sheffield and Balby AM to WSAQM and welcome her to Ilminster meeting.

04/20 Minutes of Record

(a) We record that the ashes of Marion Skinner were interred with those of her husband at Spiceland Burial Ground on December 7th 2019.

(b) We record that the ashes of David Muir were scattered on the grave of his mother, Mary Muir at Spiceland Burial Ground on January 1st 2020.

05/20 Nominations

(a) We appoint Fran Hicks and Jefferson Horsley to serve on the Taunton Meeting House Management Committee for the triennium ending 2022.

(b) We appoint Anna Mullett to serve as Quaker Life representative for the triennium ending 2022.

(c) We appoint Jenny Gateau as elder to Minehead meeting, her appointment to run until 31st December 2020 in the first instance.

06/20 Reports

a) Burnham Meeting progress report.

We have heard from Carinne Allinson regarding the proposed transfer of Burnham on Sea Local Meeting to North Somerset Area Meeting.

We ask elders and overseers to respond to North Somerset AM regarding the pastoral and spiritual care of Burnham Sea Friends who wish to remain members of West Somerset Area Meeting.

We believe the spirit will guide us to the right conclusion.

(b) AM Custodian of Records Report

We have heard from Richard Salter on the historical roots of record keeping in our AM. Our records are stored and looked after by the Somerset Heritage Centre in Norton Fitzwarren. Richard recommends that LM and AM minutes are transferred via Richard to the Heritage Centre every 15 years. We discussed how records should be stored, whether digitally or on paper and agreed that the Heritage Centre should advise on this. Richard has produced a schedule listing documents that are stored at the Heritage Centre, a copy for each LM. We thank Richard for his report.

c) Meeting for Sufferings

We have heard from Fran Hicks our representative on MfS 7th December 2019.

Minutes and accompanying papers are available online at:

[Agenda and papers for December 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

[Follow up letter and minutes from December 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

This is a report on Fran's personal experience of the meeting. The main business of the meeting was to hear and discuss reports from the Central Committees.

Considering each committee in turn.

- The merger of Central Nominations and the Committee on Clerks in support of the commitment for simpler meetings.
- Quaker Life is continuing its discernment on matters of diversity and inclusion. This is a challenging area and local meeting friends are asked to inform themselves of the issues involved to support the committee. Statements about this concern brought by QL to Sufferings, [will be attached to this report](#). Kathy Golin has been asked to visit LMs to acquaint Friends with the ongoing debate. QL is also further discerning the use of the title 'overseer' and its negative association with slavery.
- Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Fran had a revealing conversation with a committee member on the influence of Big Data and its potential threat to our civil liberties. Other projects covered were Sanctuary Everywhere, Olive Branches and Razor Wire, and Turning the Tide, all of which are flourishing.
- World Relations Committee. Asks us to be better informed about how our larger family worship and witness and to be aware of how the media affects our perceptions of each other. In a conversation with a committee member Fran had an insightful conversation concerning 'church planting' and how it might help us to be more inclusive.
- Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations. Reported on the rejection of Hannah Bock Womack by Churches Together in Britain and Northern Ireland to serve as a Quaker representative.

In conclusion the presence of Young Friends on the day brought a refreshing energy and enthusiasm to the meeting.

07/20 Tabular Statement.

We have received the tabular statement for 2019 with explanatory notes which has been circulated to LMs. Burnham meeting has queried the number of members listed for Burnham and Carinne will contact the Membership clerk to clarify this.

We thank our membership clerk for her work on the statement.

08/20 Local Meeting Responsibilities (in response to QFP 4.33)

We thank local meetings for their reports and note that the value of the exercise is in the doing of it.

It is hoped sustainability is added to the list of responsibilities when the new Book of Discipline is published.

09/20 Notices

(a) Representatives are invited to attend Leighton Park General Meeting on Friday 13th March 2020. Any interested Friends are asked to contact Anna Mullett for more information.

(b) Sunday March 1st Worshipping Together at Burnham

(c) March 16-17 'Facing Up to Race Power and Privilege' leadership retreat.

(d) March 28th E.s and O's at Spiceland

(e) Earth Action Group – a report will appear in the newsletter.

10/20 Closing Minute

We thank Taunton meeting for their hospitality and hope to meet again at Wellington on Saturday, April 18.