



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.30am

PRESENT: Sue Brownlie, Faith Cartwright, Brian Collingridge, Kathy Gollin, Charles Henderson Phil Parratt, Margaret Stenhouse, Margaret Stocks

PREVENTED:

WELCOME AND OPENING WORSHIP

20.36 READING

Number 7 of Advices and Queries has been read during our opening worship.

20.37 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The Agenda has been accepted.

20.38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

20.39 TREASURER'S REPORT

a) General situation: the treasurer reported that despite the national situation - and contrary to expectation – our aggregate funds are up by £21,000. Taunton Centre has been most affected by a lack of hirers, whereas Wellington has benefitted from a regular hirer from previous years. Most income is from members' contributions and there has been less paid out in respect of travel and fees for training and conferences. Contributions to the Area Meeting (AM) and to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) should be manageable. Minehead Local Meeting (LM) has been most affected financially and may need AM support to do this. We ask the AM Treasurer to raise this at the next AM Business Team meeting. The current reserves are in good shape.

b) The impact on the Taunton Centre: Kathy Gollin, as a member of Taunton meeting House Management Committee (TMHMC) reported that there had been a catastrophic drop in hiring of the Meeting House (MH). Surprisingly there was a considerable income. This was due to the payment of previously unpaid invoices. The Warden had voluntarily cut her hours by half, so also saving expenditure. If hirings increase in the future, so will her hours.

We thank our Treasurer for maintaining clarity in the financial picture of the AM at a time when everything is complicated.

20.40 ORAL REPORTS FROM EACH LOCAL MEETING'S TRUSTEE ON THEIR CURRENT SITUATION

- **Bridgwater**

The Arts Centre has now opened and there is a general feeling of gratitude. Weekly Meetings for Worship are in operation, following appropriate risk assessments, in a room where suitable spacing is possible. The Meeting is not yet able to operate blended meetings.
- **Burnham-on-Sea**

Assurance has gone to the Trustees of North Somerset Area Meeting that Burnham-on-Sea is not carrying liabilities from WSAQM. The transfer to North Somerset should now be able to go ahead. Burnham's share of the Friends' Somerset Charity Endowment may need to be organised by the Treasurers of both AMs and a Minute from both sets of Trustees and Area Meetings may be required.
- **Iminster**

Iminster LM is not using zoom for Meetings for Worship. They are using two gardens for 2 groups of up to 6 people. The local Vicar has also offered space in the churchyard or a space in the Church building.
- **Minehead**

Meetings for Worship started in the MH on the 16th of August, following extensive risk assessments. They have found it good to meet. Few people in the Meeting use zoom, so no blended Meetings are possible. Many Friends still meet simultaneously in their own homes.
- **Spiceland**

Spiceland are persisting with blended Meetings for Worship, despite technical difficulties. This has proved beneficial, with Friends even joining from abroad. Friends are mindful of the benefits received through zoom and wish to maintain these after the current situation has receded.
- **Taunton**

Elders have worked hard to keep the LM together, supporting meetings for worship wherever and however they occur. 5 Meetings for Worship have taken place in the Meeting House with a blended meeting once a month in conjunction with a Meeting for Worship for Business.
- **Wellington**

Meetings for Worship have been taking place at the Meeting House, although those over a certain age have not been attending on government advice.

20.41 MINUTE OF RECORD re TARA TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR 2019

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts to the Charity Commission (CC) has been completed. It has been circulated to all Trustees in advance of this Meeting. It has, this time, been compiled in the manner in which it has been done since the AM was required to appoint a body of Trustees. It will now be submitted to the CC and the other relevant bodies with whom it is always lodged.

20.42 AWAY-DAY 2021

In consideration of time constraints, it was agreed to defer this to our next full meeting in November.

20.43 PARKING AT TAUNTON MEETING HOUSE – UPDATE

We thank Charles Henderson for his determination in regard to this issue and for this report on the most recent developments. The major step forward has been the DVLA's removal of the parking company from the lane. This action was helped by the assistance of Taunton's MP. Quakers, hirers of the MH and visitors can now park without fear of penalty. Charles has not yet heard from the local authority enforcement officers, but the unsightly signs may eventually be removed.

20.44 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd November at 10.00am, using zoom.

Kathy Gollin and Margaret Stocks (co-clerks)

7th September 2020

Circulation list for Trustees' Minutes

Trustees

WSAQM Business Team

LM Clerks

TMHMC

Website