



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10.00am

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

Huw Morgan attending by invitation

PREVENTED:

WELCOME AND OPENING WORSHIP

20.45 READING

Paragraph 10.01 from Quaker Faith and Practice was read during our opening worship.

20.46 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The Agenda has been accepted.

20.47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

20.48 TREASURER'S REPORT

a) General situation and c) New Government Job Support Scheme:

The treasurer reported that the situation in September remains largely unchanged from that outlined in the last report.

With regard to the new government job support scheme we agree to apply for support for the warden's salary.

The co-clerks will contact the Taunton Meeting House Management Committee and Jane Ruell, our bookkeeper.

b) Huw Morgan, clerk to Ilminster Local Meeting, reported on recent discussions among Ilminster Friends as to the possibility of purchasing premises for a Meeting House. A steering committee has been formed.

The original sum of the donation, which constitutes the Ilminster Fund, is now inadequate and will have to be augmented by fund-raising. Area Meeting will need to be involved. Trustees would need to see a sustainable business plan and be assured that the project is financially viable. After answering questions Huw was thanked and left the meeting.

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

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

- **Bridgwater**
Meeting for Worship at the Arts Centre has been laid down. A Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in December to consider offering a reduced rent.
- **Burnham-on-Sea**
There is nothing further to report. We wait to hear from North Somerset Area Quaker Meeting.
- **Iminster**
Meeting for Worship had been resumed at Sweet Surprise - who were happy to receive a donation in lieu of rent. Meeting has now stopped because of the new lock down.
- **Minehead**
Meeting for Worship has been taking place but has now stopped. Friends are considering plans for the future, as to how they might make changes to their organisation, possibly by asking the AM if they may use a model such as that used by Spiceland.
- **Spiceland**
Meeting for Worship has continued with blended meetings. The legal number of 6 attending in person and approximately 8 on zoom. The Meeting has also managed a Meeting for Learning with Pip Harris, using zoom. The Meeting House will now close on account of the new Government national lock down.
- **Taunton**
Meeting for Worship has been taking place in person simultaneously with a separate zoom meeting, with monthly blended Meetings incorporating Meetings for Worship for Business. The Local Meeting has purchased new technology and equipment and their own zoom licence. A Meeting for Learning will take place later this month.
- **Wellington**
Meeting for Worship has continued in person with no zoom meetings. A printed report is sent out to those unable to attend. A Wellington Friend wrote movingly of these Meetings in The Friend last week.

20.50 GUIDANCE ON EXTINCTION REBELLION ACTIVISM (XR)

We thank Faith Cartwright for drawing our attention to the legal advice obtained by Britain Yearly Meeting in February 2020. Having considered the information provided, we agree that Trustees are not concerned with actions taken by individual Friends. If requested to act as a charity we will consider the case on its merits. We will return to this issue after further reflection.

20.51 TARA TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR 2019

a) Minute of Record

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 has now been submitted to the CC and the other relevant bodies with whom it is always lodged.

b) Preparation of future TARAs – Minute of Record

We recognise the concern expressed by one Trustee over this matter. But for unforeseen circumstances it would have been addressed at the proposed away-day earlier this year. We hope that this can now be the main focus of a future such day.

We remind Friends that the proper way to introduce concerns for consideration by all Trustees is through the clerk or co-clerks.

We also remind ourselves that we discern our responses to all issues before us as a gathered body, listening to the guidance of the Spirit.

20.52 AWAY-DAY 2021

This item was deferred from the last full meeting in September. It had been intended to use the time afforded by an away-day to consider the potential future of this Area Meeting in some depth and to invite our Link-person from Quaker Stewardship Committee to join us.

We now decide, after some discussion, to arrange such a meeting for 15 March 2021 at 13:30 at Taunton Quaker Meeting House, unless prevented.

20.53 MINUTE OF RECORD re PARKING AT TAUNTON MEETING HOUSE

The parking issue has been resolved and Friends are free to park considerately in the lane. Co-clerks to Trustees sent a response to a previous hirer (who had been taken to court by the parking company) expressing regret that they had not known of it earlier and explaining how the situation had now changed. The co-clerks will circulate the correspondence to all Trustees.

20.54 a) Farewells

Today we say goodbye to Kathy Gollin as she come to the end of her service as a Trustee. We thank her for her dedication and commitment which is much valued by the whole Trustee body.

b) Training

We ask any Trustee who has not so far received training through Woodbrooke to try to access a course, albeit on-line, during the coming year.

c) Clerking in 2021

Margaret Stocks is willing to continue her service as clerk for at least another year. We gratefully accept her offer.

20.55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11 January 2021 at 10:00, using zoom.

Kathy Gollin and Margaret Stocks (co-clerks)
2nd November 2020

Circulation list for Trustees' Minutes: Trustees, WSAQM Business Team, LM Clerks, TMHMC, AM Website