

## Minutes of WSAQM Area Meeting January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022, Taunton Meeting House and on Zoom

**Clerks:** Martin Wall, Anna Mullett

**01/22.** Quaker Faith and Practice 3.02 was read in our worship today.

**02/22** Local Meeting Representatives:

Bridgwater	Gilly Lee
Burnham on Sea	unable to appoint
Iminster	Valda Dagnell, Russ Chapman
Minehead	Faith Cartwright Lyn Barlow
Spiceland	Sarah Bovey
Taunton	Lynda Stewart, Peter Burgoine
Wellington	Brian Collingridge

**03/22 Membership**

- (a) We have heard the report of a visit to Lynda Stewart in November 2022. We are very happy to accept Lynda into membership. We appoint Valda Dagnell to visit Lynda and welcome her.
- (b) We have heard Keith Garner's application for membership. We appoint Kate Warren and Ali Dominy to visit Keith and bring a report to the next Area Meeting in April.

**04/22 Nominations**

- (a) We appoint Faith Cartwright to be clerk to Trustees until December 31st, 2022.
- (b) We appoint Ali Dominy to serve as Alternate Representative to Sufferings with immediate effect until YM in May 2022, then she will serve as Representative to Sufferings until May 2025.
- (c) We appoint Margaret Stocks as alternate Representative to Sufferings from May 2022 to May 2025.

We have heard from Nominations on the difficulty of finding Friends to fulfil roles. We ask Friends to support them in these endeavours.

**05/22 Life of Meetings**

- (a) Bridgwater.  
Bridgwater Friends have met regularly on zoom and in person at the Arts Centre when this has been possible. Covid has restricted some people from attending, but Friends have been able to maintain contact with each other through phone calls and oversight groups. Although outreach

activity has been restricted Bridgwater Friends have remained active in their service to the Area Meeting.  
The full report will appear in the Newsletter.

(b) Burnham on Sea

In response to their small numbers and Covid vulnerability Friends at Burnham have continued to meet on line throughout 2021.  
This new way of worship has however enabled Friends to attend AM events even though the numbers attending Meeting have fallen slightly. They are keeping in touch by email and indeed have received two enquiries although neither have attended a meeting so far. The meeting is in good heart and looking forward to mixing more whilst retaining the time for peace and reflection.  
The full report will appear in the Newsletter.

## 06.22 Reports

(a) Earth Action Group

We have received a report from John Ainsworth regarding the actions and involvement of Friends in the period leading up to and during COP26 last November. He reflects on the general disappointment of the outcome, which however has engendered a renewed commitment to take matters forward. To engage with this commitment, he has the following suggestions:

1. Friends most interested in planning how to take this forward meet on zoom in the week of 29th January. We ask the EAG to take this forward
2. He is in touch with Pip Harris, our local development worker, around potential regional action as well as with Mid Somerset Friends. We ask the EAG to pursue this initiative.
3. The EAG aim to bring this together to a special area meeting either on zoom or blended to allow as many Friends as possible to participate in February or early March. We encourage the EAG to take this forward and hope they will involve other groups with similar concerns.

We thank John for his report which will appear in full in the Newsletter.

(b) Meeting for Sufferings

The committee working on the Revised Book of Discipline gave its second report. Discernment is needed in all sections, including Quaker theology, 'God language' and our changing communities in the light of Covid. The Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations encourages us to work with climate change and diversity groups outside Quakers and to share how our faith informs our lives. We are asked to share our commitment to

these issues in our LM reports, in particular the issue of sustainability. We feel that this report needs further discernment. Fran has suggested that Friends meet to discuss these issues further, both regionally and within our Area Meeting. We ask Fran to take this forward. We thank Fran for this report which will appear in full in the Newsletter.

**(c) Update on Citizens Somerset for Jan 2022.**

We have received a report from Fran Hicks.

There will be elections for a new unitary authority for Somerset in the first week of May this year. This is a rare opportunity to consolidate existing relationships and forge new ones with candidates for the new authority. This process of engaging with the candidates will come to fruition at our Accountability Assembly during the week of the 25th of April. The efficacy of this event is hugely dependent on the numbers attending.

An action in September during living wage week engaged with the leader of our District Council who made a commitment to becoming a Real Living Wage employer and to press for this within the new unitary council.

Next event will be our AGM on the 21st of February 5:30 for 6:00 at Temple Methodists A celebratory event with music tea and cakes.

On Sunday March the 20th there will be an action to support the proposed Wellington to Taunton cycle path.

Friends are encouraged to support our membership of Citizens Somerset as we work to reweave the fabric of society.

We thank Fran for her report which will appear in full in the Newsletter.

**07/22 Trustees**

The amendments to existing policies have been circulated. Of all the policies the Safeguarding Policy is the sole responsibility of Trustees. AM Nominations have been looking at the Safer Appointments policy and explained that any new appointments will need references in future. Trustees and Nominations are working on this together. Help from BYM is available. The amendments were approved by the Area Meeting.

**08/22 Tabular Statement for 2021**

We thank Judith for her work in compiling this statement. We ask our Membership Clerk when requesting information for the Statement from Local Meetings to also include a request for the average number attending Meeting for Worship on a Sunday. This latter information for use by our Area Meeting.

**09/22 Worshipping Together Arrangements for 2022.**

All dates are on the AM Calendar. LM's will decide how they wish to join these meetings.

### **10/22 Working towards Simpler Meetings and AM Website**

Pip Harris outlined how Devon and Cornwall are approaching 'simpler meetings'. She will write a short report which will be sent to Local Meetings for discussion and discernment and we will return to these matters at our next Area Meeting in April.

We appreciate that these matters are pressing and we need to '*... get a shift on!*'

### **11/22 Notices**

(a) Sarah Bovey reminded Friends of a blended Meeting for Discernment being held at Spiceland next Saturday (Jan 29<sup>th</sup>) from 10.15-12.00. A further meeting is planned for later on in the year.

(b) There will be a talk on 4<sup>th</sup> February on home insulation organised by Quantock Eco at St Mary's Church Centre Nether Stowey given by Catherine Simpson.

Details are attached to these minutes.

### **12/22 Date of Next Meeting**

We thank Taunton Meeting for their hospitality and hope to meet again on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Business Team meeting March 1<sup>st</sup>.