



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Taunton Meeting House 10.30 am**

## **Minutes**

Present: Faith Cartwright, Brian Collingridge, Charles Henderson, Phil Parrett, Margaret Stenhouse,

Invited attendees: Ali Dominy, Rod Reeken.(representatives from Spiceland)

Opening period of worship

**22.23 Reading:** Part of paragraph 15.01 of Quaker Faith and Practice has been read in our meeting for worship today.

**22.24 Agenda.** Additional items under property matters and under AOB were accepted.

**22.25 Declarations of interest.** There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

### **22.26 Matters arising**

i.This section is confidential

ii Accounts

On the advice of our treasurer the Area Meeting has agreed that we increase our buildings fund by £5000 a year up to £45000 and to use our surplus funds to pay off the outstanding mortgage.

### **22.27Amendment to the Governing Document**

We have been advised by BYM we should amend our governing document to reflect the fact that we might want to meet by zoom or alternative electronic means in order to ensure that any such meeting is constitutional.

We agree to ask Area Meeting to amend the governing document as follows:

Insert after  
Clause 17.vi.

## **Clause 17.vii**

Participation in meetings by electronic means

(a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

(b) Any trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

(c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including clerking and the taking of minutes.

Amend clause 1.vii – to **clause 1.viii**

We have considered whether we should have a memorandum of understanding for delegation of powers to the Taunton Meeting House Management Committee and agree we should consider this further at our next meeting as part of our employment policy review

## **22.28 Property Matters**

i Quinquennial surveys Update. Detailed plans for responding to the Quinquennial Survey are being drawn up by Minehead and Taunton.

ii Taunton Solar Panels. Trustees have been given a comprehensive update on the condition of the solar panels at Taunton Meeting House.

iii Renewal of insurance. This should be straightforward. Charles was able to confirm that both burial grounds are covered by the insurance. We agree to renew the longterm agreement with Methodist Insurance when it becomes due this year unless significant concerns arise in the renewal documentation requiring our discernment.

iv Renewal of the rent at Spiceland. We ask Spiceland Meeting to review this matter with Charles and bring recommendations to our meeting in September (5<sup>th</sup>)

## **22.30 Safeguarding.**

Margaret reported that she is currently arranging to be registered as

verifier for trustees. Trustees are asked to bring identification documents to our next meeting so that we can be DBS checked. Once checked Friends should be reminded that they should register online so that their certification can be automatically renewed annually.

Margaret is in the process of arranging a meeting of Local Meeting representatives. We agree to ask Nominations Committee to appoint a deputy Area Meeting Co-ordinator for Safeguarding.

### **22.31 Treasurers report.**

Replacement book keeper. The treasurer reported that unfortunately our book keeper who took up the post in January, is no longer able to continue in this role. Phil is currently in the process of finding a replacement. Jane Ruell has agreed to continue for a further two months.

### **22.32 Employment policy update.**

Faith is currently liaising with Sigurd Reimers and is arranging to meet with both Sigurd and Vicki Ross to go through the existing employment policies to put together a coherent set of documents.

### **22.33 AOB**

Annal Report. Our clerk will check BYMs requirements and consider if they can be accommodated in the Charity Commission's simplified report.

We will aim to bring the final report to the AM in July. We will ask Local Meetings for a paragraph to include by the end of June. We will ask John Ainsworth to submit a brief report on the work of the Earth Action group on environmental matters.

**Quaker Stewardship Committee.** Work will be absorbed into Quaker Life. Information is available on the Quaker website.

**22.34** We hope to meet again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July.10.30am

The meeting finished with a short period silence.