

Minutes of West Somerset Area Quaker Meeting March 17th 2018

18/13 Quaker Faith and Practice 20.16 has been read in our worship.

18/14 Representatives

Ilminster Margaret Stenhouse, Huw Morgan

Taunton John Ainsworth, Sheila Harvey

Minehead Chris Lawson

Wellington Avril Silk, Brian Collingridge

Spiceland Sarah Bovey

Bridgwater Meg Winfield, Beverley Hirschfield

Burnham – unable to appoint

Supporting Elder Fran Hicks

18/15 Minutes of the last BTM meeting held on February 5th have been distributed.

18/16 Membership Matters

Our membership clerk reports that at the request of Edward (Ned) Allen of Ilminster Meeting and our AM, a certificate of transfer of membership was sent to Cambridgeshire Area Meeting and has been accepted.

A request has been received for the transfer of Michael Butler to our AM, but as we have yet to make contact with him his transfer has not been formally accepted.

18/17 Special Topic Area Meetings

May 19th Earth Action Group. EAG's work on preparations for this day are ongoing. It is hoped children will be involved.

September 22nd. Martin Wall reminded us that this will be a joint meeting on mental health with North and Mid Somerset. Alison Mitchell will lead the meeting. There will be a planning meeting on March 28th at 1pm at TMH to which interested Friends are invited.

18/18 'Get to know Quaker Structures'

We have heard from Fran Hicks that this suggestion arose from enquiries by attenders who would welcome sessions covering gaps in their knowledge about Quaker business structures. Fran and Kathy Gollin suggested holding sessions open to attenders and new and existing Friends, using the publication 'A Day with Friends' as a possible framework. It was hoped a leaflet could be made available to let people know how they can become involved. We were reminded that courses are available for attenders for example at Charney Manor, and that funding can be provided by AM.

18/19 Circles South West

Sara Radford, regional co-ordinator for Circles South West spoke to us about the work of Circles which works with sex offenders known as 'core members' to provide support and their safe re-integration into the community. She invited us to consider volunteering. Her talk and answers to subsequent questions made clear the value of this work. A summary will appear in the next newsletter. Sara left us with posters and leaflets to distribute.

18/20 Nominations

The name of Alan Keith was put forward to serve on the TMH Management Committee and was accepted by Friends.

18/21 Presentation of the Area Meeting 2018 budget.

Our AM Treasurer has prepared a budget which has been accepted by Trustees. He highlighted certain items such as Outreach, Property, Quaker courses and Donations. For those interested the budget is available and will be forwarded to Local Meetings. Interested Friends are asked to consider whether they might be interested in taking on the role of Treasurer in the future.

Outreach initiatives requiring funding need to be discussed in LMs before consulting Phil Parrett who holds the outreach budget on behalf of AM. Some ideas however need to come before AM for discernment. Most LMs have been able to contribute to AM at levels suggested by our Treasurer.

18/22 Fulfilment of LM duties.

We have received responses from Minehead and Ilminster Meetings and these are noted in the minutes.

18/23 Reports.

Meeting for Sufferings. We have heard from Kathy Gollin of the MfS in February. The main focus was Quaker Life, agreeing that QL's priority for the future should be 'where meeting for worship is the bedrock for living as a Quaker'. Kathy was able to share some of these experiences from our own local meetings. We were also reminded of the dates for BYM and the Sustainability Group gathering in Swanwick. Her full report will appear in the newsletter.

A concern was raised that revisions of QFP, for example when marriage regulations changed, necessitated the reprinting of the entire book. Fran Hicks explained that an alternative is being considered whereby booklets for such legal matters will be printed separately from the main copy of QFP.

Trustees. Margret Stocks spoke to us regarding the report which will be published in the newsletter. LMs were asked to consider whether any of their members might consider becoming a Trustee.

Safeguarding Conference. Margaret Stenhouse spoke to us about the Conference she attended in January. Each LM should have one safeguarding representative to liaise with the AM co-ordinator. There is a training day on the 28th April in Taunton. Details of this will be sent round to LM clerks.

18/24 Notices

Quiet Day in Taunton April 28th. Following the appreciation of the Apple Seed Day last year, a second day has been arranged following the same Appleseed philosophy. The theme of the day will be prayer and contemplation. It is hoped that information about this day will be widely available and a flyer produced.

Friends were reminded of the forthcoming Journeyman Theatre productions at Taunton MH in June and September. Information has already been sent out to LM clerks.

18/25 Closing Minute

We thank Taunton for their hospitality and hope to meet again at Taunton for our next BTM on Monday April 16th at 7pm, and at Spiceland at 10.15 am for our AM on July 21st.