

## **Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Colchester, 19.11.2017**

### **Representatives**

**Clacton-on-Sea** - Karl Sage

**Colchester** – Julia Usher, Eliza Jones, Phyl Reid, Rosalind Kaye, Robert Parkes, Ann Dowden

**Sudbury** – no representatives

**Earls Colne** – Jenny Kay, John Kay, Jayne Meleschko

**Harwich** - Hazel Jones

Present were 20 Friends, including 3 Attenders.

**2017/56** Friends being met in the presence of God, Qfp 2.29 was read.

### **2017/57 Membership matters**

**Membership termination** - Vere Smith (no contact)

**Membership resignation** - Les Wood, at his request

**Transfer between Local Meetings** - Since we recently agreed that two LMs be included in AM, i.e. Earls Colne and Harwich, we hereby minute the following transfers for the purposes of the Tabular Statement:

Colchester to Earls Colne - 3 members (2 men, 1 woman)

Sudbury to Earls Colne - 3 members (1 man, 2 women)

Clacton to Harwich - 9 members (4 men, 5 women)

### **2017/58 A funeral in the manner of Friends**

Jean Banks, the mother of Simon Banks, of Harwich Meeting, died at the age of 92 on 27 September 2017. Her funeral was held in the manner of Friends at Oakfield Wood, Wrabness, on 20 October 2017. Elders were Tony Eaton and Hazel Jones. Although not a Quaker, Jean supported Simon throughout his membership of the Society and was delighted that he had found a faith to live by.

### **2017/59 Appointments**

#### **Triennial Appointments**

A number of Friends have come to the end of their terms and we thank them for their service.

#### **Elders at Colchester**

We release Helen Lewis who has completed two terms and we re-appoint Charles Bather, Eliza Jones and Alison Parkes to serve until end December 2020.

### **Elder/Overseers at Harwich**

We re-appoint Simon Banks and Robert Crowley, following one year's service, to serve for another year, from January 2018 to end December 2018.

### **Elder at Sudbury**

We re-appoint Robin Hart for her 4th term, until end December 2020.

### **Overseer at Sudbury**

We release Sylvia Frith after 3 terms and re-appoint Betty Scrivener for her 8th term, until end December 2020.

### **Newsletter Editor**

We re-appoint Valerie Graves for her 9th term, until end December 2020.

### **Assistant Website Manager**

We appoint John Kay to serve from January 2018 to end December 2020.

### **AM Assistant Treasurer Earls Colne**

We release Hazel Jones and appoint Jayne Meleschko to serve until end December 2020.

### **Overseers at Colchester**

We release Elizabeth Hurley after 2 terms and 6 months, and we appoint Diana Naylor and Jayne Adams to serve until end December 2020.

### **Elder at Earls Colne**

We release Antoinette Arnold after 1 term, and we appoint John Kay to serve until end December 2020.

### **Overseer at Earls Colne**

We release Jenny Kay after 2 terms and 6 months and appoint Antoinette Arnold until end December 2020.

### **Trustees**

We release Robert Parkes after one term and Peter Whiteley after two terms; Peter has also served as Clerk to Trustees for the past year. We appoint John Lewis as trustee from January 2018 to end December 2020. We appoint Jenny Kay to serve as Clerk to Trustees from January 2018 - end December 2018, which is when she completes her first triennium as a trustee.

### **2017/60 QCCIR Conference**

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) is to hold a conference at Woodbrooke, March 16-18, 2018, with the theme "The Changing Face of Faith in Britain, how should Quakers respond?" Friends interested in attending are asked to contact the Clerk.

### **2017/61 QPSW Annual Spring Conference**

Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) is holding its Annual Spring Conference on 23-25 March 2018 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme is "Journeys of Witness". Friends interested in attending are asked to contact the Clerk.

### **2017/62 Annual Report and Accounts 2016**

(a) Peter Whiteley presented the Annual Report on behalf of Trustees for the year ending December 2016. Peter explained the delay in making this presentation, which was due to problems with our former bookkeepers. We now retain the services of Sue Dowden as our bookkeeper, making use of a Quaker-friendly computer program on an AM computer.

The report explains our Structure, Governance and Management, as well as activities and priorities of the AM. Our priorities are guided by the document "Our Faith in the Future" and these include, for instance, our support for Fresh Beginnings and Glebe House.

Trustees have asked that Local Meetings prepare a report for incorporation into the 2017 AM report to the Charity Commission. Trustees will provide guidance on what to include. We ask LM Clerks to prepare a brief report and submit it to the newly appointed Clerk of Trustees, Jenny Kay.

We thank Peter for presenting the report.

(b) Tom Tebbutt, AM Treasurer, presented the Accounts for the year ending December 2016.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Tom and the Trustees for these accounts and for their ongoing work.

We have received and accepted the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 prepared by Whittle and Co, independent examiners, signed by Tom Tebbutt, Treasurer, and Peter Whiteley, Clerk of Trustees. The Annual Report and Accounts has been uploaded to the AM website.

We agree to retain Whittles as our independent examiners for the year ended December 31, 2017.

We gratefully acknowledge the work done on our behalf by our Treasurer and Trustees, maintaining the functioning of the AM. The involvement and awareness of all Friends in the work of trustees is an important obligation of being a member of the Religious Society of Friends.

### **2017/63 Meeting for Sufferings Report**

Robert Parkes presented his report from Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends Meeting House, Manchester, on 6th October 2017. This was the first time in recent years that Meeting for Sufferings has been held out of London.

Meeting for Sufferings considered questions which challenge us all, such as "What does 'Quaker action' mean?" and "What does love require of us?" as well as how best we might

fund Quaker work. Our personal and AM contributions to Yearly Meeting may be used in ways discerned by Meeting for Sufferings.

Meeting for Sufferings placed a focus on diversity and inclusion. We have been given some questions to consider, listed in Robert's report, which is attached to these minutes and will appear in the newsletter and on the AM website.

### **2017/64 Quaker Life Representatives Council Report**

Eliza Jones reported on Quaker Life Rep Council, which met at Woodbrooke in October 2017. The theme of the conference was "Shape Shifting - New Models of Quaker Meeting and Community". We might consider 'gospel order' as a stool with three legs - the inner light, the functioning of church committees and social testimony. We are asked to consider whether there is a particular leg our meeting needs to pay attention to. Our focus should be what is needed, not what is expected. Using our gifts is more important than structure. Recognising what we have is the first step.

We ask that elders and overseers consider Eliza's report at their upcoming joint meeting, and explore how the questions raised could be more widely considered amongst Friends in our LMs.

Eliza is willing to meet with Friends to discuss these ideas further.

We thank Eliza for her inspiring report, which is attached to these minutes, has been uploaded to the AM website and will be published in the AM newsletter.

Signed,

*Alison Parkes*

Alison Parkes  
Clerk