

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Colchester, 10.01.2016

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Ros Eaton, Tony Eaton, Joy Ling and Hazel Jones

Colchester – Robert Parkes, Liz Hurley, Di Naylor (prevented), Helen Lewis and Eliza Jones

Sudbury – no representatives

Present were 28 Friends, including 2 Attenders and all but 1 of our representatives.

2016/01 Friends being met in the presence of God, an extract from *Quaker faith and practice* 19.57 was read.

2016/02 Tabular Statement - Liz Hurley reported on the tabular statement for 2015, which has been returned to Friends House. The total membership of Area Meeting at 31 December 2015 was 135 with about 90 attenders. We thank Liz for carrying out this task on behalf of the Area Meeting. The Assistant AM Clerk has agreed to complete the Tabular Statement for 2016, with help from Liz Hurley.

2016/03 Application for membership

2016/04 Appointments

a) Triennial Appointments

Glebe House link - Helen Lewis has completed two triennia and an additional year's service as Glebe House link. We thank her for her service and reappoint her to serve for one more year, until end December 2016.

Assistant AM Treasurer (Earls Colne)

Further to Minute 2015/37, Nominations Committee was asked to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve as Assistant Treasurer, who would take care of accounts for the smaller Local Meetings ready for presentation to the bookkeepers each month. We had expected to need the Assistant AM Treasurer to take care of accounts for Earls Colne, Sudbury and possibly Clacton. Since then Clacton has appointed Liz Prockter to serve as their Treasurer, and the AM appointed Sue Dowden to take care of the accounts for Sudbury. We therefore only need to appoint an Assistant AM Treasurer for Earls Colne.

Nominations Committee brings forward the name of Hazel Jones to serve as Assistant AM Treasurer (Earls Colne). Hazel has been taking care of Earls Colne's accounts since Roy Prockter's death, and we thank her for that service. We appoint Hazel as Assistant AM Treasurer (Earls Colne) to serve from January 2016 - end December 2018.

Assistant AM Treasurer

We ask Nominations Committee to add the role of Assistant AM Treasurer to the Appointments List and to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve in this way. The role would involve acting in support to the AM Treasurer, becoming familiar with the responsibilities and procedures involved in taking care of AM accounts, and liaising with LM Treasurers and our appointed bookkeepers as needed.

AM Nominations Committee - Colchester Meeting brings forward the name of Carol Holding to serve on the AM Nominations Committee. This name being acceptable to the meeting, we appoint Carol to serve from January 2016 to end December 2018.

b) Representatives

Quaker Council for European Affairs/Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QCEA/QPSW) biennial conference

Further to Minute 2015/47, Jet Grommell was prevented from attending the QCEA/QPSW Conference in Brussels 4-6 December. There was not time to bring another name before AM and under these circumstances, Nominations Committee agreed that John Lewis should take her place.

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) representative -

Jan Squire has come to the end of a triennium as our QCCIR representative. We thank Jan for her service and appoint Reg Webb to serve as our QCCIR representative from January 2016 - end December 2018.

Eldership and Oversight Conference

We appoint Phyl Reid to attend the Eldership and Oversight conference at Woodbrooke, April 8 - 10, 2016. A second place is available if another Elder or Overseer is able to attend.

Gathering on Our Sustainability Commitment: Being a transformational community

We are asked to nominate at least one Friend from AM to attend this gathering, to be held at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, 18 - 20 March. This weekend gathering is organised by the BYM Sustainability Group. The gathering will have three threads: practical change, including campaigning; engaging with the spiritual dimensions of climate change; and strengthening our communities. There will be short talks, workshops, fun and relaxation.

Nominations Committee invites expressions of interest for this gathering. We agree to fund a Friend to attend on our behalf.

Catching Light Outreach Conference

We agree to fund a representative to attend the Catching Light Outreach Conference to be held at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire, 12 - 14 February. Interested Friends and Attenders are invited to speak to the Clerk or a member of the Nominations Committee.

2016/05 Quaker Tapestry at Chelmsford Cathedral

Mid-Essex AM is planning to bring an Exhibition of the Quaker Tapestry to Chelmsford Cathedral. It will be open from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 4th September 2016. We are asked to provide support to Mid-Essex Friends before and during the exhibition, particularly in areas such as publicity, potential stewarding and in any other ways we feel may be appropriate. The cost of staging a Touring Exhibition will be about £7,000 together with a further £3,000 which is funded from Kendal, which houses and curates the exhibition.

The Quaker Tapestry is a magnificent display and we offer our wholehearted support to Mid-Essex AM for organising it. Anne Watkinson, Phyl Reid, Helen Lewis and Tim Holding

have offered to help with stewarding, and other Friends may come forward. Carol Holding is willing to be a contact person to keep our AM informed of developments.

We would like to consider making a financial contribution but would need further information before doing so.

2016/ 06 Meeting for Sufferings Report

Robert Parkes reported from the residential Meeting for Sufferings held at Woodbrooke in December. He gave us his personal response, which he called a "journey into service", to how MfS has deepened his understanding of what it means to be Quaker. Robert raised some questions to challenge us as individuals and as a meeting. He encouraged us to become familiar with *Quaker faith and practice* in readiness for future review.

We thank Robert for his report, which is attached to these minutes and will appear in the newsletter and on the AM website.

2016/07 Quaker Council for European Affairs/Quaker Peace and Social Witness conference - Report

John Lewis reported on the QCEA/QPSW Conference, entitled "Castle or Community", held in Brussels in December. John described the conference as "ambitious", with 115 Friends from 21 countries exploring how we deal with people who are trying to come to Europe, and the tensions between the vision of the founders of the Common Market and the nationalistic protectionism which has emerged. Speakers questioned the perception of refugees in terms of economic gain or threat: "To avoid wars and the causes of war" is sound economic sense. In view of the current migration and refugee crisis in Europe, John felt the conference would have benefited from a speaker with relevant experience in the field.

We were reminded of the many people in Europe, including the UK, fellow travellers in worship, who are working with a range of challenges to offer support, guidance and Friendship to others.

We thank John for attending this conference at short notice, and for his report, which is attached to these minutes and will appear in the newsletter and on the AM website.

2015/08 The Refugee Crisis

Further to Minutes 2015/52 and 66, Robert Parkes reported from the AM Refugee working group on local efforts to support refugees. The working group organised a tea party at Colchester Meeting House which was attended by the 4 Syrian families who arrived just before Christmas, and by several local people representing three other faith groups. Each faith group has been asked to befriend one of the four families.

The AM working group is meeting regularly and is seeking feedback from the families, especially the one assigned to us to befriend, about how our funds might help to meet their particular needs. The group plans to make use of the £200 per month which was agreed last time.

We thank the working group for their continuing efforts on our behalf, and ask that they seek support and participation from other Friends as appropriate. We ask Robert to submit his report for inclusion in the newsletter and AM website.

2016/09 Woodbrooke on the Road for Elders and Overseers

AM Elders and Overseers wish to invite two Woodbrooke on the Road tutors to Colchester Meeting House to further their skills and knowledge of their roles, and learn from one another. Friends in pastoral roles have been invited from Ipswich & Diss AM and Mid-Essex AM. The date is March 19th and it will be an all-day event. The cost is £40 per participant, with a minimum charge of £480. We agree to underwrite this event and pay for our AM Elders and Overseers.

Anne Watkinson is coordinating this event and we ask her to ensure that funding information is communicated to the other AMs.

2016/10 Responsibilities of Local Meetings

We have received minutes from the meetings in our Area, confirming that they have endeavoured to carry out the duties laid down for them in QFP 4.33, to the best of their abilities. The minutes from Clacton, Colchester and Earls Colne are attached to this minute.

Harwich Friends held a formal Annual Meeting and recorded that membership is stable and Friends have agreed to continue meeting every second and fourth Sunday each month in 2016; in addition Friends meet for discussion once a month and the Experiment with Light group continues to meet monthly.

Earls Colne Friends continue to consider their position with regard to becoming a Local Meeting again. We heard the following minute from Earls Colne:

***Earls Colne Minute 4.34 Formal Agreement with Area Meeting:** We thank the AM and Trustees for the responsibilities undertaken on behalf of Earls Colne and specifically thank Tim Holding for continuing to care for Earls Colne Meeting House and the AM Treasurers for looking after our financial affairs. Earls Colne Friends ask for a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn up on the basis of the present arrangement with AM Trustees, who look after the premises, hirings and the caretaker, and the finances through an AM appointment of a treasurer. We appoint Antoinette Arnold and Colin Keen to represent us in this process.*

We ask that Trustees work with the appointed Earls Colne Friends to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed,
Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk