

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Earls Colne, 10.07.2016

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Hazel Jones

Colchester – Jacky Hall, John Hall, Phyl Reid, Rosalind Kaye, Tim Holding and Carol Holding

Sudbury – no representatives

Earls Colne - Jenny Kay, John Kay, Antoinette Arnold, John Derring

Present were 26 Friends, including 4 Attenders.

2016/32 Friends being met in the presence of God, *Quaker faith and practice* 24.56 was read.

2016/33 Membership matters

2016/34 Appointments

Triennial Appointments

Assistant Website Manager

We agree that it would be helpful to create the role of Assistant Website Manager, who would have access to the AM website and help to keep the website up-to-date. We appoint John Hall to serve in this role from July 2016 - end June 2019.

Trustees

Robert Crowley has asked to be released as a Trustee, for personal reasons. Bob was half-way through his first triennium. We thank him for his service and ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of another Friend to serve as Trustee.

Greenwood Trust

John Lewis has asked to be released as a Trustee representing our AM on the Greenwood Trust. We thank John for the invaluable service he gave to the Trust over the past three years and ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve in his place.

Representatives

Court of the University of Essex

Joan Taylor, our appointment to the Court of the University of Essex, completed a triennium in February this year, and we thank her for her service. As Joan does not wish to continue, we ask Nominations Committee to bring forward a name.

2016/35 Annual Report and Accounts

(a) Jenny Kay presented the Annual Report on behalf of Trustees for the year ending December 2015. Jenny described the role of Trustees as an enabling one as they try to ensure that the work of AM can be carried out.

(b) Tom Tebbutt, AM Treasurer, presented the Accounts for the year ending December 2015.

We thank Tom and the LM Treasurers (Les Wood, Hazel Jones, Liz Prockter and Sue Dowden) for these accounts and for their ongoing work.

We have received and accepted the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 prepared by Whittle and Co, independent examiners, to be signed by Tom Tebbutt, Treasurer, and Robert Parkes, on behalf of Trustees, at their next meeting with Whittles. The Annual Report and Accounts will be uploaded to the AM website.

We agree to retain Whittles as our independent examiners for the year ended December 31, 2016.

We gratefully acknowledge the work done on our behalf by our Treasurer and Trustees, maintaining the functioning of the AM.

The picture at the end of 2015 suggests that we could afford to put an additional £75,000 towards projects and donations. We are challenged to identify what we would want to support, which could include Quaker work through donations to BYM or other Quaker bodies, or to more local projects.

2016/36 Glebe House update

Further to Minutes 2015/30 and 39, Ecky Prolingheuer, who serves on the Glebe House Nominations Committee, reported on the work of Glebe House and in particular on the Circles of Support programme, which we are supporting by contributing £30,000 for three years towards the costs of running the programme.

We were reminded of our reading at the start of this meeting (Qfp 24.56) and the transformative effect of "small circles" working for good. We are proud to be supporting the outstanding work of Glebe House, which is beginning to receive national recognition.

We ask Ecky to ensure that Glebe House sends the AM Treasurer a record accounting for our donation of £30,000 for each of the three agreed years.

We thank Ecky for his report which will be published on the website, in the newsletter, and is attached to these minutes.

2016/37 Meeting for Sufferings report

We heard from Robert Parkes that Meeting for Sufferings discussed three points raised by Yearly Meeting Trustees, which include:

- ageing and declining membership
- the burden of our buildings
- the impact of HS2

We also heard that the EU referendum provoked discussion about Quaker involvement in programmes to build bridges between disparate communities. We must seek out opportunities and spaces for transforming ourselves by listening to our neighbours, and for transformative events that can provide healing and reconciliation in the aftermath of the EU referendum. The document "Our Faith in the Future" can be a guide.

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

2016/38 AM Website report

John Hall has produced a graphic report demonstrating the range of visits to our AM website. Although the majority of the traffic is redirected from other sites and includes "referrer spam", we are encouraged to see that in the last year, there have been over 900 genuine visits.

John's report raises questions about how we might adapt the website to meet the needs of those who visit it. We thank John for his report and look forward to exploring ways to develop the website in the future.

2016/39 Quaker Life Rep Council Report

Lucien de Leon reported on the QL Rep Council meeting held at Woodbrooke, 15-17 April, with the title "Sharing our end-of-life stories - discovering Quaker understandings of dying and death". Lucien emphasized the importance of talking and of listening, of sharing our worries and doubts about infirmity, loss and death.

He referred us to a wealth of supportive information. Leeds Meeting has produced a book called "Assisted Dying - a Quaker exploration" and a copy has been provided for each Local Meeting. Copies are also available for sale from the Quaker Centre bookshop.

We ask AM Elders and Overseers to discuss with Lucien appropriate ways of opening out the discussion with Friends. We encourage LMs to revisit this topic on a regular basis.

We thank Lucien for his report, which is attached to these minutes, will appear in the newsletter and be uploaded to the Business page of the AM website.

2016/40 Regional Gatherings 2017

Further to Minute 2016/30, Regional Gathering was held at Colchester Meeting House on Saturday, June 25, with a workshop led by three Kindlers on the theme "What Does Love Require of Us?". About 20 Friends, mainly from Colchester, took part. Several Friends found the workshop especially helpful following on from the result of the EU Referendum.

We have been asked to host RG on February 25, 2017. This would fall to Colchester Friends. We ask Colchester LM to consider this and report back to AM. AM plans to consider the future of RG in September, so the discernment of Colchester Friends could contribute to AM discernment.

2016/41 AM Residential Gathering High Leigh November 2016

Further to Minute 2015/67, Jenny Kay, Phyl Reid and Peter Whiteley reported on progress with regard to plans for this gathering (18-20 November). Not all the places have been booked by Friends of our AM. Colchester Elders were consulted and agreed that Friends from Mid-Essex AM should be invited. We also agree to extend the invitation to Friends who have moved away from our AM.

Application forms are available at each Meeting House and can be downloaded from the AM website. Bursaries are available on request.

2016/42 Dates of AMs in 2017

We ask LMs to consider the following dates and locations for Area Meetings for Church Affairs and to report back to AM in September:

Sundays:

15 January - Colchester (3rd Sunday due to 1st Sunday falling on New Year's Day),

12 March - Clacton, 14 May - Sudbury, 9 July - Earls Colne,

10 September - Colchester, 19 November - Colchester (3rd Sunday due to Sale in Colchester)

Signed,

Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk