

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Earls Colne, 09.07.2017

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - no representatives

Colchester – John Hall, Jacky Hall and Phyl Reid (prevented)

Sudbury – no representatives

Earls Colne – Antoinette Arnold, Jenny Kay, John Kay, Colin Keen, Jean Keen, Jayne Meleschko and John Derring

Harwich - no representatives

Present were 19 Friends, including 1 Attender and all but 1 of our representatives.

2017/36 Friends being met in the presence of God, *Quaker faith and practice* 2.66 was read.

2017/37 Death of a Friend

We record with sadness the death of Ernest Hall, a Friend of Clacton Meeting, who died just before midnight, 1 July 2017. Ernest had dual membership of the Religious Society of Friends and the Church of England. He played an active part at Clacton Meeting until prevented by failing health.

We ask Clacton Friends to prepare a testimony to the grace of God in Ernest's life for the AM Book of Memorials.

2017/38 Appointments

Triennial Appointments

AM Treasurer - We reappoint Tom Tebutt to serve for an additional year, until end September 2018. We ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve as Assistant AM Treasurer with a view to taking over from Tom when his term ends.

Elder - We appoint Ray Attrill to serve as an Elder at Colchester Meeting from August 2017 to August 2020.

Assistant Archivist - We reappoint Rosalind Kaye to serve as Assistant Archivist for another triennium, from September 2017 to September 2020.

Funeral Arrangements Committee: We received the following minute from Nominations Committee: Nominations Committee asks AM to regularise appointments to the Funeral Arrangements Committee as AM appointments. Nominations Committee brings forward the names of Helen Lewis and Peter Whiteley to serve for a further three years. Charles Bather and Carol Holding are already serving, completing their triennia in March 2018 and May 2018 respectively.

We agree that these appointments be made by AM from now on. We appoint Helen Lewis and Peter Whiteley to serve on the Funeral Arrangements Committee from July 2017 to July 2020.

Richard Waynforth Trust

Martin Rayner completed serving as an AM Trustee and therefore as a trustee for the Richard Waynforth Trust in 2016. The name of another Friend has been brought by Trustees, and this name being acceptable to the meeting, we appoint Sylvia Jeffcock to serve as a trustee to the Richard Waynforth Trust from July 2017 to July 2020.

2017/39 Meeting for Sufferings report

Robert Parkes reported from Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House on 3 June, 2017. He focused on 3 key areas: interfaith activity, money and "Our Faith in the Future". We thank Robert for his report, which is attached to these minutes and will appear in the newsletter as well as on the Business page of the AM website.

2017/40 Trustees Report on current matters

Peter Whiteley, Clerk of Trustees, reported on a number of matters. The AM Safeguarding Policy has been updated and approved. We have been in transition working with the computer program Paxton, which is more compatible than the previous program with our ways of bookkeeping. The guidance for the use of our burial grounds has been updated. A Memorandum of Understanding between AM and each of the LMs continues to be developed.

We look forward to a full report when we receive the Annual Accounts.

2017/41 BYM donations

Jenny Kay, Trustee, spoke about the need for BYM to receive more financial support from Area Meetings, and referred to the shortfall in our AM contributions per member for the years 2015 and 2016. This was on the basis of making up the payment to £150 per member for 2015 and £200 per member for 2016. We agree that we should place some of our money with BYM, where it can be put to good use. We agree to make a contribution to BYM of £20,000.

2018/42 Designated fund for education

Tom Tebbutt, AM Treasurer, spoke to this matter. He reminded us that Trustees, on behalf of AM, continue to look outward. The Jack Fields Legacy, restricted for members of Colchester Meeting, now stands at about £50,000 and is slowly and steadily going down. We can choose to designate a fund for the use of members and attenders across the AM, for educational, pastoral and spiritual purposes, thus ensuring the continued provision to support Friends and Attenders for these purposes. We thank Tom for this suggestion and ask Trustees to bring forward a proposal which details the eligibility and scope of such a fund.

2018/43 AM Website report

John Hall presented the annual report on the AM website. We were glad to hear we are no longer under attack from Russian bots. In the last 90 days, over 350 people visited the site

and many then went on to a second page. It was encouraging to see that the website is being well used, especially by people in the 18-34 age group. However, we feel we could be attracting more visitors and ask John to find out what this would cost.

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

2018/44 Area Meeting Gathering 2018

Further to Minute 2017/13, High Leigh Conference Centre has been booked for the weekend of October 12-14, 2018. We request the names of Friends who would like to serve on the committee to make the necessary arrangements. We ask LM Clerks to make this request known and for anyone interested to contact the AM Clerk.

2018/45 Dates of AMs in 2018

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:

These are the 2018 dates: 14 January - Colchester, 11 March - Clacton, 13 May - Sudbury, 8 July - Earls Colne, 9 September - Colchester, 11 November - Colchester.

Signed,

Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk