

Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Earls Colne, 08.07.2018

Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Karl Sage

Colchester – Robert Parkes, Eliza Jones (Acting Assistant Clerk), Phyl Reid (prevented), Ecky Prolingheuer, Joan Rew, John Lewis, Helen Lewis, Rosalind Kaye

Sudbury – no representatives

Earls Colne – Antoinette Arnold, John Derring, David Lawrence, Una Lawrence, Jayne Meleschko

Harwich - Simon Banks

Present were 15 Friends, including all but 1 of our representatives.

2018/37 Friends being met in the presence of God, the Quaker Declaration for Equality and the Common Good was read. The Declaration, an initiative of Kendal & Sedburgh Friends and supported by Quaker Peace & Social Witness, will be delivered to 10 Downing Street on Friday 3 August. We uphold the Common Good Riders of Kendal and Sedburgh Area Meeting.

2018/38 Membership matters

2018/39 Appointments

Triennial Appointments

Nominations Committee Hazel Jones, representing Clacton and Harwich Meetings, and Carol Holding, representing Colchester Meeting, have both asked to be released from the AM Nominations Committee. We thank Hazel and Carol for their service.

This leaves just one Friend, Jenny Kay, serving on the committee, which is untenable.

Colchester LM Nominations Committee members have given support but this has added an extra burden for them and needs to be reviewed.

We ask Colchester, Clacton and Harwich Meetings to bring forward the names of one or more Friends to serve on this committee. Alternative solutions will be considered by AM Clerk, in consultation with Jenny Kay, and we will review the situation at a future AM.

Trustee We reappoint Eliza Jones to serve a second term as Trustee until end August 2021.

AM Treasurer Tom Tebbutt completes his second term as AM Treasurer in September 2018. In the absence of a name to replace him by this date, Tom has agreed to serve until end December 2018 and we extend the appointment to that date.

Overseer - Carol Holding has asked to be released from this role after serving nearly two triennia this time. We thank Carol for her service and ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of another Friend.

Archivist Frances Tebbutt completes her second term end September 2018; we thank Frances for her service. We appoint Rosalind Kaye (currently Assistant Archivist) to serve for one year until end September 2019.

Assistant Archivist Nominations Committee suggest that this appointment is not needed at this time. We agree to lay down this appointment.

Assistant Website Manager We appoint Ann Webb (formerly Website Manager) to serve for three years until end March 2021.

Greenwood Trust We reappoint Carol Holding, to serve a second term as a Greenwood Trustee until end June 2021.

Contributions Secretary Carol Holding completes her term in this appointment in August 2018. In the absence of a name to replace her by this date, Carol has agreed to serve until December 2018, and we extend the appointment to that date.

Membership Assistant This appointment has been unfilled since December 2017. With no names to bring forward, Nominations Committee has looked into this role with the Assistant Clerk who has responsibility for membership. It is suggested that this appointment is no longer needed at present. We agree to lay it down.

Safeguarding Coordinator - We appoint Ecky Prolingheuer to serve as Safeguarding Coordinator from July 2018 - end July 2021.

Representatives

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) Rep

Our late Friend Reg Webb held this appointment. Nominations ask AM to encourage anyone interested in attending these conferences to do so. Friends can seek appointment as our representative to a specific event, and bursary funding is available. We agree to this arrangement and lay down this role as an appointment.

BYM Sustainability Gathering

A Sustainability Gathering is to be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on October 19 - 21, with the theme "Bridging the gap: hope and action". Any Friend interested in attending is asked to speak to the Clerk; bursary funding is available.

2018/40 Report from AM Nominations Committee

AM Nominations Committee requests support from the Area Meeting. We were reminded of the following from Qfp 3.24:

Sometimes it may seem impossible to find someone to serve. Nominations Committees should not hesitate to bring their problem back to AM to ask for guidance and practical help.

In addition to the list of nominations brought before the meeting, Nominations Committee brought the following to the attention of AM for information and seeking support and guidance:

- **AM Treasurer** Tom Tebbutt will complete his term at the end of the year.
- **Contributions Secretary** Nominations Committee have asked Trustees to consider the guidelines for this role.
- **Meeting For Sufferings Alternate** Carol Holding completed her second term as alternate representative at 04/18. Nominations Committee are unable to bring forward a name to replace her. It is noted from Sufferings Minutes that there is a minute which reads '*Visitors [may be] invited to represent area meetings/committees in the absence of appointed representative or alternate.*'

It is suggested that should an alternate be needed for a particular Meeting for Sufferings, an interested Friend could be appointed for a single occasion. We agree to this arrangement, until such time as an alternate can be appointed.

We acknowledge Nominations Committee's request for support and will return to this at a future Area Meeting. Discernment of nominations to Quaker roles has been a cherished aspect of the Quaker approach to appointments. We may need to consider new ways of working and liaise with Friends House for support. Friends with particular skills and expertise which may be of service to the Area Meeting are invited to speak to the Clerk as we discern a way forward.

We thank Jenny Kay for preparing the report of the Nominations Committee, which is attached to these minutes.

2018/41 Meeting for Sufferings report

Robert Parkes reported from Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House on Saturday, July 7th (yesterday). He will prepare a written report later.

We were reminded of the origins of Meeting for Sufferings, going back to Margaret Fell's declaration to the King in 1660. The membership of Meeting for Sufferings now includes Friends representing key Quaker bodies such as QPSW and BYM Trustees, as well as representatives from nearly every AM.

Meeting for Sufferings is considering the Probation Service's withdrawal of funding for Circles of Support. This makes our continued support for Glebe House all the more timely and essential.

Quakers will respond in local ways to the forthcoming visit of Donald Trump to the UK, and Friends are encouraged to find out about local events.

With reference to the challenges of finding Friends to serve in Quaker roles, BYM Trustees are aware of this across the national Society and are grappling with simplification of our

structures. We ask the AM Clerk to draw this to the attention of LM Clerks: it is acceptable to simplify our roles.

We are asked to consider aligning the timing of our AMs to fit well with Meeting for Sufferings, so as to sustain and nurture the link between us.

We thank Robert for his report. A written version will be attached to these minutes and will appear in a future newsletter and on the AM website.

2018/42 Greenwood Educational Trust report

Carol Holding and Charles Bather represent our Area Meeting as Trustees of the Greenwood Educational Trust. The Trust supports children and young people whose parents are members or attenders of the Meetings in Essex and Suffolk and who are in need. We support the work of this Trust even though we do not make use of its funds, as our AM funds are sufficient to meet the educational needs of children and young people in our AM. We thank Carol and Charles for their work as Trustees and for the report, which is attached to these minutes.

2018/43 Glebe House

Further to Minute 2018/31, we heard the response from Glebe House regarding our donation of an additional £30,000. This donation continues to enable the support offered to young men when they make the transition to life away from Glebe House.

Peter Clarke, Director of the Friends Therapeutic Community Trust, Glebe House, was grateful for our donation, which "has been invaluable in accelerating the transitions work that is so badly needed."

Peter Clarke has agreed to forward the research report evaluating the project when he receives it. We ask Dave Lawrence, our Link Friend with Glebe House, to keep us informed of developments.

2018/44 Action on local poverty

Further to Minute 2018/32, we heard responses from the Colchester Rough Sleepers Group for our financial support for two projects, Chariot 180 and the Street Buddies scheme. Our donation was described as "a fantastic boost for the CRSG, which will inspire and encourage." They thanked us for our consideration and generous donation.

We ask Sylvia Jeffcock to continue to liaise with Pete Hope and Vic Flores, Project Manager and look forward to hearing about progress with these projects in a year's time.

2018/44 Area Meeting Gathering - update

Anne Watkinson and Peter Whiteley are going to Woodbrooke to meet with Mark Russ, our facilitator at AM Gathering, to be held at High Leigh Conference Centre over the weekend of October 12-14, 2018. It will be an opportunity to get to know one another in a beautiful and relaxing setting, to share our faith journeys and to renew our fellowship and community.

Friends are encouraged to send their forms to Peter or to let him know of their intention to attend. Application forms are available at the back of the June newsletter, and from the AM website. Bursary funding is available.

Signed,
Alison Parkes

Alison Parkes
Clerk