

**At a meeting of Warwick Friends held at the Quaker Centre  
on Sunday 2nd September 2018**

Present: 15 Friends were present for our meeting, starting at 12 noon.

Minute 18/50 *Advices & Queries* No 10 was read aloud during worship today, September 2nd.

Minute 18/51 Past and future area meetings

Area meeting was held at Warwick FMH on Thursday July 19th from 6pm to 9pm. Edward Creasy reported back to us the following Sunday

Paula Button, Gill Smith and Jane Holt may be able to represent us at Northfield FMH on Sat 8th September. Should one of them do so, we ask her to report back to us as soon as possible after the meeting.

Minute 18/52 Friendly Link Report

We received the report (filed with these minutes) of our Friendly Link Editor, Anna Edelsten and thank her for her for her innovations and painstaking work on our behalf.

We agree to her suggestions that she forwards appropriate notices to be displayed on the websites of Central England, Banbury and Evesham and Leicester Area meetings and that she seeks material from a wide range of spiritual sources for the opening quotation, as well as from Quaker Faith and Practice.

We also agree that she should reduce the number of editions to four, no longer creating editions which have contact details removed.

Minute 18/53 Proposed Changes to Garden Opening Times

Our garden group has suggested that we adjust our garden opening times to 8am to dusk, rather than 8am to 5pm. We need to be clear about this in order to make any applications for grant funding honest and accurate.

We are keen to share our garden with the community but appreciate that this poses a range of difficulties, including a potential health and safety risk to our warden and our tenants.

We have heard that Edward Creasy, our warden, would have liked to have been consulted by the Garden Group on this matter and ask that it is now discussed in detail between them.

We request that the matter is brought back to our next Business Meeting..

Minute 18/54 Proposed Meeting at Queensway Court Residential Care Home

Our friend, Ann James, has been approached by Queensway Court, regarding a one-off Quaker Meeting for Worship, to be held at the home, as part of the spiritual provision that is provided. We are very happy to support this idea and ask Ann to take this matter forward, with those who are keen to be involved. We encourage others who are available to support this venture enthusiastically.

Minute 18/55 Managing objections to Nominations

We have received a minute from our Elders on this matter:

## 2018.48 Objections to Nominations

We discussed the Minute from Business Meeting (BM) on 3.6.18 concerning the Nominations process.

We don't really think that there is need for greater clarity about the role of the Nominations committee or the status of the nominee – we feel this is clear enough.

We agree that decisions should be taken at the BM and that if further consideration on that name is necessary it should be referred to the next BM, not sent back to the Nominations Committee. It would be helpful to make Nominations available one month beforehand if possible so that Members can consider them in advance of BM.

If there are concerns about a Nomination the objections should be expressed specifically, to maintain truth and integrity, but must be done in a loving spirit. We would suggest that the objector should say something like “I don't think that X is suitable for this role because....” rather than Quakerspeak such as “I think our Friend's talents lie elsewhere” which would leave everyone no clearer as to why they are objecting.

We would suggest that when Nominations are being considered at BM the Friend nominated should have the choice as to whether they stay in or leave BM while the nomination is discussed and the right way forward discerned. If they decide to go out during this time we feel that it would be good if an Overseer or other Friend could go out with them to support them.

We were much exercised in this hard matter which raises issues of transparency, discernment, personal process, respect and consideration for each other, amongst others.

We therefore ask Elders to discern further in this matter, whilst thanking them for the work that they have already done.

We ask them to bring this matter back to the November Business Meeting.

### Minute 18/56 Nomination of new Safeguarding Officer

The name of Ali Jeffery was brought to us to be one of our Safeguarding Officers. This name is acceptable to us and we thank her for her willingness to be appointed.

We also thank Diana Biddlestone for her careful work in this area and formally release her from this role.

We ask our Clerk to inform Area Meeting of this change.

### Minute 18/57 Southern Marches Concern re the Post-Truth World

We have received a briefing and a call to respond from Meeting for Sufferings regarding the Southern Marches AM's concern about the Post-Truth World.

This is a large and somewhat loosely-defined concern and would be difficult to tackle effectively in a BM. There is also a tight deadline as responses are needed by October 29th. We therefore propose that the Clerks publicise this concerns to the Meeting generally, through a direct mailing and at the end of Meeting for Worship, asking any interested Friends to form a small group to look at this concern urgently and to report back to the October Business Meeting.

We ask the Clerk to contact Area Meeting re the publication of Area Meetings' Minutes on the Area Meeting website as have a strong feeling that this would demonstrate appropriate transparency, 'in our own backyard.'

God willing we shall meet again on Sunday October 7th commencing 12 noon after Meeting for Worship, with agenda items and papers to the clerk by Thursday 27th September.

Meg Harper, clerk

Diana Biddlestone, assistant clerk

Continuing Minutes

Existing

13/37: WQM Members and Attenders List

14/03 (part) Review of Meeting List (see also 13/37 above)

16/28 (part): Fund-raising committee – annual report – re. use of contribution schedule

18/17: Advice re management of emails and current address list