

East Cheshire Quaker Meeting
held as a blended meeting at Marple Methodist Church
Saturday 8th July 2023 at 10.30 am

23.07.01: Friends present: In the room 19, on Zoom 6.
All our meetings are represented.

Elder: Bou Mowl
Trustee: Sue Pounder

23.07.02: Reading: During our opening worship paragraph 23.81 was read from *Quaker faith & practice*.

23.07.03: Caring for Friends: We have heard the names of Friends who are in our thoughts. We ask our Assistant Clerk, Peter Eccles, and Anne Sumner to write to them on our behalf.

23.07.04: Transfer of membership:

Further to Minute 23.05.09, certificates of acceptance of transfer of membership have now been received from Craven and Keighley Area Meeting for Bill Fox and Jan Fox.

23.07.05: East Cheshire Area Meeting Trustees: Minutes of meetings on 5th and 8th June
We thank Gavin for drawing our attention to item 3, would anyone like to contact Sue Pounder if they are interested in some online training working with offenders in our meetings?

23.07.06: East Cheshire Area Meeting Trustees: The Annual Report is attached to the minutes.
We want and need more Friends to be Trustees.
We need to support our Nominations Committees in finding names.
We draw Friends' attention to the terms of reference for trustees, attached to the minutes.
Trustees must be in membership.
We accept the report and thank our trustees for their work on our behalf.

23.07.07: East Cheshire Area Meeting Annual Report and Accounts for 2022:

We accept the accounts which have been signed by Gavin |Mendham, Clerk to Trustees, and Hilary Brooks, AM Clerk.
We thank our treasurer, Brenda Curran, for her work on our behalf.

23.07.08: Grant request for Summer School:

We agree to support Summer School to the sum of £550.

23.07.09: Dates and venues for Area Meeting business meetings in 2024:

We accept these dates and venues provisionally. With regard to the AM at Frandley in May, clerks will consult with Friends as to the best way forward.

23.07.10: Britain Yearly Meeting:

Friends have shared their reflections on this year's sessions.
We spent some time discussing outreach.

23.07.11: Meeting for Sufferings 1st July 2023:

We thank our representative, Keith Braithwaite, for his report, which is attached to the minutes.

23.07.12: Northern Friends Peace Board report:

We thank Phoebe for her report which is attached to the minutes.

We encourage Friends to take part in the Alternative Security Review.

23.07.13: Report on Chaigeley School:

We thank Hilary Brooks, our Quaker Governor/Trustee at Chaigeley School, for her report which is attached to the minutes.,

23.07.14: After lunch we considered the subject of membership as requested by Meeting for Sufferings. This was facilitated by Hilary Topp our Local Development Worker. We discussed new and creative ways of considering membership and attendance as well as acknowledging the historic reasons for membership, and how we all have had different pathways towards becoming Quakers and different reasons for taking membership or remaining as an attender.

We thank Hilary for joining us today.

We discussed the following questions:

- What are your dreams for membership and belonging to the RSoF?
- How would it be if our RsoF was truly inclusive?
- How could membership “enhance our experience of being Quaker”?

This is the beginning of an ongoing journey into our eventual decisions about membership.

The Clerk will forward this minute to MfS.

We ask Local Meetings to discuss these questions

- Why do we have membership?
- What is it for?
- Is it still necessary?
- If yes, what form(s) could it take?

and feed back to Area Meeting for forwarding to Meeting for Sufferings by the end of August.

We thank Marple Friends for their hospitality.

Signed



Hilary Brooks, Clerk

Date of next meeting: Saturday 16 September at 10.30 am at Disley Methodist Church followed by lunch and an afternoon session.

Local Meeting clerks: Please note minutes 9, 12, 14.

Papers attached to the minutes:

Minutes of Area Meeting Trustee meetings on 5 and 8 June

Annual report from Area Meeting Trustees

Terms of reference for Area Meeting Trustees

Area Meeting Annual Report and Accounts for 2022

Report on Meeting for Sufferings held 1 July 2023

Report on Northern Friends Peace Board

Report on ChaigeleySchool

Notices

1. **Summer School for 11 to 17 year olds and certain 10 year olds.** Information about this year's summer school to be held in Shrewsbury from Sunday 13 to Saturday 19 August has now been received and is posted on the Area Meeting website at the following address.
https://www.eastcheshirequakers.org.uk/area_meeting/event/summer_school
2. **September Area Meeting for Business.** Note that the venue has been changed to Disley Methodist Church as a result of concerns about accessibility of the meeting room in the meeting house. Thank you to Disley Friends for making this change.
3. **Enquirers events at Macclesfield.** Friends are planning a stall at the Macclesfield Treacle Market on Sunday 24 September to showcase Quakers and then an enquirers afternoon in Macclesfield on Saturday 7 October. Offers of help are sought as a stall need some keen Friends and willingness to skip Meeting for Worship for on Sunday morning, For more information or to offer to help contact Andrew Backhouse (andrew.backhouse@phonecoop.coop) or Jill Maguire (artscps@talktalk.net).