

STOCKPORT LOCAL MEETING

Sunday 2 July 2017

Minutes

1. *Reading*

Psalm 60 has been read

2. *Area Meeting*

The next Area Meeting will be held at Disley on 8 July. Our representative will be Tim Carlisle, who will report to us the following day.

3. *Premises Committee report*

This report has been circulated. We discussed options for dealing with the tendency for door handles to overheat in hot weather. We ask Julia Horn to investigate this. Phoebe Spence mentioned the possibility of returning to Ecotricity as our energy supplier. Our order for chairs is on hold until the supplier receives another order.

We accept this report and thank Joan Armstrong for preparing it and Premises Committee and Sam our cleaner for their work.

4. *Lettings*

Our Warden Steve Harrold has read a report giving an overview of his experience after his first year in post. He enthused about the Meeting House, seeing it as an embodiment of our Quaker and environmental values, which he stresses in promoting it. So far this year we have earned £9.400 in bookings, although this includes some which are for the whole year. Sessions average 51 per month and c.200 people use the building each month. Steve has received many positive comments about the Meeting House from our hirers. We thank Steve for his report.

5. *Vision for the Meeting House*

We thanked Steve Harrold for his successful year as Warden. The Meeting House is a home for our meeting and a resource for the community. We cannot always foresee how others will use that resource, so our vision must be tempered with openness to future opportunities and challenges. We welcomed asylum seekers last year but are aware of the practical and legal restraints of extending this beyond daytime visits. In this area we would do well to develop links

with other churches or organisations who are working with groups such as refugees or homeless people. We could also promote our values more through external posters. The website can prove a useful tool in attracting potential hirers; perhaps we could incorporate positive feedback the Warden has received. Increased usage presupposes increased maintenance.

6. Quaker chaplain for Stepping Hill

We have been asked by the Chaplaincy Centre at Stepping Hill Hospital if we wish to remain on their list of contacts for faith groups. We feel this to be a good idea and will send Stepping Hill updated contact details. Requests will be received by the Warden who will contact a Stockport Friend as the need arises. The Clerk will reply to Stepping Hill.

7. Defibrillator

As a consequence of our First Aid Training session on 30 June we discussed the purchase of a defibrillator for the Meeting House. We feel this to be a good idea and that an external defibrillator is a more useful community resource than an internal one. Joan Armstrong has already initiated enquiries as to cost and installation. We ask Premises Committee to take this matter on board once Joan receives more information.

8. Clerks mailing items

We discussed the following items from the current Clerks LM Mailing

a. Quaker week

This is 30 September-8 October. We think it would be a good idea to send for the information packs and ask the Clerk to arrange this. We could also publicise events held elsewhere in the area.

b. Mental health survey

This is organised by Quaker Life. We ask Elders and Overseers to discuss this later this month. Individual Friends are welcome to send personal responses.

c. Changing face in faith survey

This is organised by the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations. We ask Elders and Overseers to bring this to the attention of those who have attended their first Quaker meeting in the last 3 years.

d. Becoming a sanctuary meeting

We have the option of registering as a Sanctuary Meeting from 1 August. More details about this will become available after Yearly Meeting Gathering. This is a matter which could be discussed at Area Meeting.

9. Cork Meeting House

We have received an appeal from Cork Meeting House in the Republic of Ireland. They are seeking contributions towards the building of an extension. We agree to send £50 and ask our Treasurer to arrange this.

10.AOB

None

Signed Geoff Thomason - Clerk

