

# Disley Local Quaker Meeting

## Meeting for Worship for Business

12:15, Sunday 6 July 2025

At Ring o' Bells Meetinghouse

### Draft Minutes

#### **07.06.01** Readings

1. In our opening Worship we heard QF&P 23:47
2. Since our last business meeting we have heard A&Q 7, 19, and 42 during ministry.

#### **07.06.02** Minutes of the previous Meeting have been circulated.

1. At 25.05.04 the word "Hippopotamus" should be deleted and instead should read "Magic Breakfast"
2. Matters arising: Our Refugee day took place on Saturday 28th June. It was a success. Friends hosted 70 people (and two dogs!) from eight countries.

#### **07.06.02** Memorials for Leonora Dobson

1. Friends celebrated the grace of God as shown in the life of Leonora Dobson on 7 June.
2. Friends hosted the family for a memorial lunch at the Meetinghouse last Sunday, 29 June.
3. The family indicated that Friends may donate to The Woodland Trust and/or Save the Children, causes important to Leonora. Friends have raised £186 thus far to donate to those causes.

#### **07.06.03** Area Meeting

1. We appoint River and Bridget Dunbar to represent Disley Friends at the Area Meeting to be held on 12 July 2025 at Marple. We are grateful to them for this service.

#### **07.06.04** Meetinghouse

Matters arising from Premises Committee, see Minutes from 08-6-25

- a. Room hire rates for the Meetinghouse have not changed for around 10 years. Clients comment on the low rates compared to other facilities. Premises propose to raise the rates from September but to inform letting clients now, to allow adequate notice to them. The new rates would be: Snug £6.00 per hour, meeting

room, £10 per hour, whole premises £80 per day. To be reviewed every 2 years. Friends agreed to these changes. The Meeting will also more vigorously promote the Meetinghouse as a venue.

- b. In order to improve connections between the Meeting and the local community, particularly families, it's proposed to hold an Open Garden Afternoon. We would sell basic refreshments and have games available in the garden. This would raise a little money but also serve as outreach. Mindful of the effort required to run such events, we might hold one in August but focus on one in September (to align with Quaker Week). The example of our Refugee days has been that the work involved is repaid in energising the Meeting. We thank Anne Sumner for volunteering to coordinate this. Friends agreed to at least an event during Quaker Week.
- c. After refinement of the financial model presented by the Treasurer, Friends are minded to move to Octopus. Both Good Energy and Octopus have good credentials. Friends were surprised that Ecotricity, formerly a 25% shareholder of Good Energy, was not considered. They have their own approach to green energy and in the past were perceived by some Friends as holding back Good Energy from their approach. Good Energy are better on local renewable micro-generation, Octopus are better on promoting renewables globally.

#### **07.06.05 Collections**

1. Friends heard that £134.70 was collected last month for the Prison Reform Trust.
2. Friends thanked Ben Evens for his careful consideration of this matter and for proposing the following:

Suggestions for causes to support should be made to the Clerks for consideration at Meeting for Worship for Business. It is understood that each year we aspire to have at least six of the causes have a Quaker connection. Suggestions must provide name, address and either bank account details or method of payment for the cause, if not already known. Friends proposing a cause should ideally be prepared to speak about it at one more MfW in the month, or else another supporter may.

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Friends accepted this proposal.

3. Bridget Dunbar proposed that we support one or more Quaker mental health charities, including both a grant-making and a campaigning group. Details to follow. Till Geiger suggested in addition that we support Quaker Roots. River also suggested that we support Housing Justice. Friends accepted these proposals.
4. Friends are encouraged to bring further proposals to the MfWfB in September.

#### **07.06.06 Young People Leaving Education**

1. Friends assembled at the meeting were not aware of any, but Clerks will enquire of Jackie Barker. Friends supported the principle and will return to the question of monetary gifts in September, which should be at least £150, funds permitting.

#### **07.06.07 Quaker Week 2025**

1. As in the past World Quaker Day coincides with the last weekend of UK Quaker week, Friends would like to hold a special Meeting for Worship that weekend to focus on Quakers around the world. Disley Friends will uphold the Glossop worshipping Group in their Quaker Week activities, for which the Glossop group is grateful.

#### **07.06.08 Book Donations**

1. Friends agreed to donate to Disley Library, three books read by the Racial Justice Group. These will be accepted by the library, but without any acknowledgement of their source. We allocated a budget of up to £50 for this. Ann Lewis to source these books and provide them to the library, we thank her for this service.

#### **07.06.09 Safe Spaces**

1. Elders and Pastoral Friends have been considering what would constitute a safe meeting for everybody. We received an oral report from their meeting on 8 June from Till Geiger. Their sense is that our Meeting is safe "until it is unsafe". Till and Liz Fletcher have been asked to create and run a Meeting for Exploration to find out what may from time to time lead Friends to feel unsafe and to establish a framework for resolving safety concerns as and when they arise. They propose to run this on Sunday September 21st after MfW. Friends recognise that this matter needs an approach uniform across the Area Meeting and perhaps beyond. In the meantime, any Friends who have concerns about feeling safe in the Meeting are invited to contact them before that session, particularly if they have concerns which they might be less willing to share in an open meeting.
2. Friends are reminded that Anne Sumner of this Meeting is the Area Meeting Deputy Safeguarding officer. She will report back to us following her next meeting with the AM Safeguarding officer.

#### **07.06.10 Next Meeting**

1. Our next Meeting is on September 7th, at Ring o' Bells, Paul Gee to Clerk.
2. We note that Keith Braithwaite will be away from August 22nd, there will be a handover to Paul before that.

Signed 6 July 2025, in and for Disley Meeting for Worship for Business



Keith Braithwaite, Clerk for this time