

## RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

### CHEADLE HULME MEETING

Sunday 7 February 2016

Friends present – 11

- 1. Recording names of friends present.** It had been suggested that we might record not only how many Friends were present, but also their names. We have discussed this, and have decided not to name Friends.
- 2. Readings.** Paragraph 19 of Advices and Queries has been read in Meeting for Worship.
- 3. Intervisitation.** Ann Lewis and Christine Wilson visited Wilmslow Meeting during January.
- 4. East Cheshire Meeting, February Business Meeting.** We appoint Geoffrey Clifton and Rachel Mulliner to attend East Cheshire Meeting at Wilmslow on Saturday 13 February at 10 a.m.
- 5. Quaker and Local Projects Fund.** Further to Minute 5 of our last meeting, the meeting was held on Sunday 17 January. It was agreed that the funds raised last year for Quaker and local projects should be added to the previous designated Quaker Projects Fund to form a new Quaker and Local Projects fund. At the beginning of 2015 there was £895.00 in the Quaker Projects Fund and during the year £1243.69 was raised. During the year a contribution of £50 was sent to the Quaker Disability Equality Group (an annual contribution we have made for some time) and it was agreed to send £50 to the Northern Friends Peace Board.

We agreed to send £100 to each of the bodies which we had previously supported through after meeting collections: Quaker Council for European Affairs, Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre, Ulster Quaker Service Committee, Stockport Refugee Support Group, Wellspring Stockport, Northern Friends Peace Board (in this last case this means an additional £50 to the sum already agreed). We also agree to send £200 to the Bradford Peace Museum, and £100 to each of Quaker International Educational Trust (for bursary funds for Brummana High School in Lebanon), Quaker Bolivia Link, Friends of Hlekweni, Responding to Conflict, Quaker Homeless Action, and Quaker Social Action (for their End Funeral Poverty project).

- 6. Gift Aid.** For 2016, Rachel Mulliner is taking over claiming Gift Aid. We thank Alan Ingram for undertaking this task over many years.

7. **Hearing loop.** Peter Eccles informs us that the hearing loop amplifier has been replaced at a cost of £570.60. We confirm this payment.
8. **Library budget.** Geoffrey Clifton has spoken to us about his experience of Spirited Librarianship, a conference he attended last year. He has suggested that we have an annual budget for purchases for the Meeting library. We agree to a budget of £200 for 2016 from the General Purposes Fund for books for the library and authorise Geoffrey to make purchases up to this amount. We agree to revisit this minute in a year's time.
9. **Overseers budget.** Elders and Overseers have suggested that we have an annual budget for the support of Friends attending conferences so that each individual case does not have to be considered by the whole Meeting. We authorise Elders and Overseers to use funds from the Life of the Meeting Fund to help support Friends attending courses or conferences. Friends do not feel it is necessary to have a specifically budget amount. We agree to revisit this minute in a year's time.
10. **Garstang Meetinghouse appeal.** We have received an appeal from Garstang Meeting to help them with funding an extension of their meetinghouse. We agree to send them £60.
11. **Lenten Lunch.** Further to Minute 10 of our last meeting, Saturday 5 March has been confirmed for the date for this lunch. We ask Evelyn Ingram and Peter Eccles to coordinate arrangements.
12. **Bring and share lunch.** We note that Elders and Overseers have invited Friends to a bring and share lunch after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 14 February.
13. **Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary Meeting in Peru.** Friends would like to invite Michael Eccles, who attended the recent FWCC Conference, to give us a talk after meeting reporting on the gathering. Peter Eccles agrees to provide a soup and bread lunch in aid of FWCC, and will also consult Michael as to when he is available.
14. **Posters in the Meeting Room.** Two posters have been up for over a year in the Meeting room. We considered whether or not we should leave them up, or replace them, or take them down and leave the walls plain. We agree to take them down and to leave the walls plain.
15. **Review of the state of the meeting.** We have reviewed the outcomes of our consideration of this subject in November, December 2014 and February 2015. There are several items which are still outstanding.
  - a) **Photographs of members of the Meeting community.** Further to minute 16c of our December 2014 Business Meeting, we agree to create a list of people in our Meeting community, with contact information and photos provided by individual Friends. Friends can opt in to be on this list and can choose what should be published alongside their name. This can be made available to new attenders when we feel it is appropriate. We ask Peter Eccles to coordinate this.

- b) **Monthly midweek Meeting for Worship.** Further to minute 6 of our April Business Meeting, we have reconsidered this. There was much correspondence which followed, but the concern never resulted in the creation of such a meeting. Liz Perry now agrees to take this forward after seeking some guidance from Elders and Overseers. We will revisit this at our next Business Meeting.
- c) **Posters for public notice boards.** Further to minute 16g of our December 2014 Business Meeting, we have acknowledged the need to address this and agree to do so at our next Business Meeting, in conjunction with minute 15b of this meeting.
- d) **Meeting Library.** The review of the Meeting in November 2014 yielded the possibility of a new approach to the Meeting library. At the time, we asked Ann Lewis, Geoffrey Clifton, and Rachel Mulliner to consider this. Due to circumstances beyond Rachel Mulliner's control, they were prevented. We now ask them again and to consider this.

**16. Fellowship outside Meeting.** Elders and Overseers have proposed that Friends participate in small groups to share a meal, and have some worship-sharing and fellowship, to help build and sustain the community of the Meeting. Friends have shared concerns that the formal organisation of such groups could be divisive and that it would be better for such groups to be more spontaneous. However, it has also been suggested that it would be good to encourage a deeper encounter between members of the Meeting community and that some organisation might be helpful. We ask Elders and Overseers to provide more information about what is proposed, having consulted with other Friends,

Peter J Eccles and Taylor Giacoma, co-clerks.