

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
CHEADLE HULME MEETING

Sunday 1 October 2017

Friends present: 12

1. **Readings.** Paragraph 37 of *Advices and Queries* has been read in Meeting for Worship.
2. **Intervisitation.** Geoffrey Clifton has visited Stockport meeting during September. Susan Clark will visit Crewe and Nantwich in October. Christine Wilson will visit Macclesfield in December.
3. **East Cheshire Meeting, September Business Meeting.** The Friends appointed attended this meeting and a report was given after meeting for worship. The relevant minutes have been noted.
 - (a) **Minute 17.09.08.** Geoffrey Clifton was appointed an elder from 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2018. Liz Perry was released from service as an elder at her request. We thank Liz for her service.
 - (b) **Minute 17.09.09.** Susan Clark was appointed to the Area Meeting Nominations Committee from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.
 - (c) **Minute 17.09.13.** We have been asked to consider how we might create a more inclusive community in our local meetings, in terms of ethnicity, age groups, and other stages in life, a question raised in a letter from Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk. We have also been asked by Sue Pounder to consider two questions about (a) how our local meetings can flourish as lively and faithful communities, and (b) what we have learned from visiting other Quaker meetings, in preparation for the Quaker Life Representative Council in October. We agree to consider this at a future meeting for learning.
 - (d) **Minute 17.09.14.** Further to Minute 8 of our last meeting, Area Meeting agreed to contribute £500 towards the refurbishment of Yealand Old School.
4. **Meeting Accounts for 2016.** Our treasurer, Rachel Mulliner, has presented the accounts for 2016 which have been examined by Geoffrey Clifton. At the end of the year the total assets of the meeting were £29,398.46 (2015: £26,859.24) of which £3,236.96 was in the General Purposes Fund (2015: £2,853.80).

We agree that the extra £20 paid in error to Britain Yearly Meeting in 2016 should be confirmed as an additional payment. We ask our treasurer to allocate in future an appropriate amount of interest to the various designated funds.

We approve these accounts and thank Rachel and Geoffrey for their work on our behalf.

We agree to contribute £1,000 from the General Purposes Fund to Britain Yearly Meeting.

We ask the clerks to prepare a narrative report on the life of the meeting in 2016 for our next meeting.

5. **Meeting House appeal: Cork.** We agree to send £60 to this appeal.
6. **Meeting House appeal: Wellington (New Zealand).** We agree to send £60 to this appeal.
7. **Meeting House appeal: Oswestry.** We agree to send £60 to this appeal.
8. **Meetings for Learning.** Our local Elders and Overseers have proposed that we should have a monthly meeting for learning for an hour from 12.45 to 1.45 on the third Sunday in each month. The first meeting will be held on 15 October, and the topic will be a reflection on diversity and vibrancy within our meeting, pursuant to Juliet Prager's and Sue Pounder's requests of Minute 3(c). We agree to this. Further topics will be decided by Elders and Overseers. One possible topic would be the Quaker business method and it is suggested that Michael Hennessey should be asked to lead a consideration of this. Elders and Overseers saw the 'Becoming Friends' course book as a source of ideas for other topics. The sessions might be held as a discussion group or as a worship-sharing session depending on the topic.
9. **Premises Committee.** Susan Clark has reported that the Bramhall Recorded Music Society which has met in the meeting house for many years is to close and has offered to give their cupboard to the meeting if we would find it useful. We have agreed to decline their offer but ask Sue to convey our thanks. However, consideration of their offer gave rise to a discussion of the way in which our library books are kept and how much space is allocated for this, and we ask premises to consider this matter in consultation with Geoffrey Clifton, librarian.
10. **Defibulator.** Geoffrey Clinton has proposed that the meeting install a defibulator. The cost would be about £1,000. The nearest defibulator to the Meeting House is outside SKEight on Station Road about 200 yards away. We are doubtful about the necessity of having a defibulator on this building but ask Premises Committee to look at this in the light of the information shared today.
11. **Cards for prisoners of conscience.** For many years we have written cards to prisoners of conscience after meeting for worship on a Sunday shortly before Christmas. Evelyn Ingram has previously made the arrangements but will not be here this year. Marion Thompson has agreed to take it on, with the understanding that the clerks will ask after meeting if anyone feels able to support her in this task.

12. Fund-raising lunch. Peter Eccles has offered to organize a soup, bread and cheese lunch after meeting for worship in aid of our Quaker and local projects fund. We agree to hold a lunch on 29 October.

13. Christian Aid. Evelyn Ingram informed friends about a focus meeting on 19 October about work in central Africa. Friends are encouraged to attend. She also informed us about a campaign to encourage banks to reconsider their investment practices.

Signed,

Taylor Giacoma and Peter J Eccles (who was not present for the last three items), co-clerks