

STOCKPORT LOCAL MEETING

3 NOVEMBER 2019

REDACTED MINUTES

1. Reading

A public statement [on poverty and housing] by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain agreed in session at London Yearly Meeting 22–25 May 1987:

“Quakers in Britain have felt called to issue this statement in order to address a matter of urgent national priority to promote debate and to stimulate action.

We are angered by actions which have knowingly led to the polarisation of our country – into the affluent, who epitomise success according to the values of a materialistic society, and the ‘have-leasts’, who by the expectations of that same society are oppressed, judged, found wanting and punished.

We value that of God in each person, and affirm the right of everyone to contribute to society and share in life’s good things, beyond the basic necessities.

We commit ourselves to learning again the spiritual value of each other. We find ourselves utterly at odds with the priorities in our society which deny the full human potential of millions of people in this country. That denial diminishes us all. There must be no ‘them’ and ‘us’.

We appreciate the stand taken by other churches and we wish to work alongside them.

As a Religious Society and as individuals we commit ourselves to examine again how we use our personal and financial resources. We will press for change to enable wealth and power to be shared more evenly within our nation. We make this statement publicly at a time of national decision [a general election] in the hope that, following the leadings of the Spirit, each one of us in Britain will take appropriate action.”

Quaker Faith and Practice 23.22 has been read.

2. Area Meeting representatives

Area Meeting will be held at Cheadle Hulme on 10 November. Our representatives will be Tim and Pat C, and Joan A. Joan will report back to us.

3. Item of report - Wedding of David K and Peter C

We celebrated the wedding of David K and Peter C which took place at Stockport Meeting on 2 November. Over 50 people attended. We send our congratulations and best wishes to David and Peter. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks to Sarah D, who was Registering Officer on this occasion.

4. Item of report - Response to letter to Ann Coffey

The Clerk has received a reply from Stockport MP Ann Coffey to the letter he sent expressing our concern over the London Arms Fair. This is attached.

5. All-age worship

We agree to hold an all-age worship on 5 January. This will be followed by a trip to the pantomime at Stockport Plaza. The theme of the all-age worship will be care for the environment. It will be led by Frances M and Madeleine R. We shall hold a bring and share lunch.

6. New year party

Pat C asked if we would like to hold an event to mark the new year. She suggested a party, a walk, or a meal together, or any other ideas. Friends are asked to make their preferences known to the Events Group (Sheila, Pat or Wendy) by the end of November.

7. Warden's report

We have received an annual report from our Warden Steve H. This is attached. We thank Steve and the team for this report.

8. Health and Safety schedule

Joan A introduced a draft Health and Safety policy for local meetings with meeting houses based on the Area Meeting one. This has been circulated to Friends in advance of this Local Meeting. We agree to accept this with the following proviso: that Joan will ascertain whether those designated under the agreement as having "the ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters" need be named as individuals or whether their roles alone will suffice. Once this is established, Joan will send the policy to the Clerk for signing. We thank Premises Committee for their work on our behalf.

9. Waste recycling and contamination

Joan A has been alerted to the fact that the Stockport councillor Helen Foster-Grimes is involved with a campaign to improve awareness of correct recycling procedures among local residents. We are interested in having more information on this. The Clerk will write to the councillor to ask for more information and first send the draft letter to Joan for approval. Once we have the requested information we can decide how, if at all, we can become involved.

10. Visit in 2020

Margaret M has asked if we want as a meeting to book a short break in 2020, on the lines of a recent visit to Great Hucklow. Friends have expressed a wish to visit Great Hucklow again and we ask Margaret to make a provisional booking. We might consider other venues, such as Rydal Hall, for 2021.

11. Date of next Local Meeting

As this cannot take place on the first Sunday in January because of all-age worship and the visit to the pantomime, we therefore agree to hold the next Local Meeting on 29 December 2019.

12. AOB

On November 3 we arrived for Meeting for Worship to discover that the meeting house had been broken into overnight. There is damage to all the main rooms, particularly the Friends room, where the window was smashed, and the small room, where the door was forced open. The screen in the large room has been taken and the kitchen has been disturbed. Some items were taken from the Friends room, where the contents of the cupboards have been thrown on the floor. The police have been alerted. We hope that the majority of costs will be covered by insurance, but because we are unsure of additional costs to us, we agreed to delay sending our agreed contribution to BYM. We hope that disturbance to our bookings will be minimal.

Geoff T – Clerk

