

East Cheshire Area Quaker Meeting

Cheadle Hulme Meeting House

11th February 2017 10.00am

17.02.01: Friends present

There are 33 Friends present.

All our Meetings are represented.

17.02.02: Reading

10.29 from Quaker Faith and Practice has been read in our starting worship.

17.02.03: Minute of Thanks

We record our gratitude to all the Friends who have served the Area Meeting in 2016 and have now laid down their service.

We also recognise the many quiet unseen faithful duties carried out behind the scenes by Friends.

It is hoped that those Friends still in post and those new in post can continue with and build on the work done in 2016.

17.02.04: Caring for Friends

We have heard of a number of Friends who are unwell. Whilst holding them in our thoughts, we ask our Assistant Clerk and Liz Morris to send our greetings.

17.02.05: Tabular statement

Ben Evens has presented the 2016 Tabular Statement in novel form. This report is attached to the Minutes. Friends are referred to our later Minute of this Meeting made as a BMM in November. We thank Ben for his faithful work on this task.

17.02.06: Recording of Marriage extracts

There were no marriages under the Area Meeting in 2016.

The East Cheshire Marriage Extract for 2016 has been signed by the Clerk as being in accordance with the Register and section 3 of the Tabular Statement. The extract has now been returned to Friends House as required.

17.02.07: Death of Les Johnson

Stockport LBM 15th January has sent the following Minute:

We record with sadness the death of Leslie Johnson on 7 January. The funeral will take place on 26 January. More might be said at the next Local Meeting.

We record our thanks for Les's service to the Area Meeting. We ask our clerks to write to his family.

17.02.08: Death of Geoffrey Tickle

Marple Meeting for Business 29th January 2017 have sent the following Minute:

We record with sadness the death of our Friend Geoffrey Tickle, 62 Etherow Way, Hadfield, Glossop, SK13 1PS, on Friday 6th January 2017, aged 89. A Meeting for Worship to celebrate Geoff's life was held on Wednesday 11th January at Hadfield Methodist Church. Our Elders, Sue Pounder and Alan Russell, agree to write a fuller minute.

We look forward to receiving that further Minute.

17.02.09: Death of Ian Hamilton

We record with sadness the recent death of Ian Hamilton of Stockport Meeting. We remember with thanks Ian's Five Minute Findout at our last Area Meeting when he shared important parts of his life story with us.

17.02.10: Membership, Frances McCann

Further to minute 16.11.06 we have heard the report from Geoff Thomason and Sally Mendham of their visit with Frances. We are pleased to accept Frances who attends Stockport Meeting into Membership and ask Joan Armstrong to welcome her into Membership on our behalf.

17.02.11: Membership transfer received Mary Callaway

We have received a Certificate for Transfer of Membership from Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting in respect of Mary Callaway [address omitted] who attends Stockport Meeting. We accept this transfer and welcome Mary to East Cheshire Area Meeting.

17.02.12: Report from Area Meeting Children and Young Peoples Committee

CYPC has reported on the All-age Worship, shared lunch, games and pantomime trip held at and from Stockport Meeting House on 8th January. They have reported that "The event was enjoyed by all who took part, and Stockport Meeting hope to hold a similar all age worship and panto trip next year." And they say "Thank you" to Area Meeting for paying for the panto tickets for all children who went, and to everyone who contributed to this being such an enjoyable event.

In response to a request from CYPC we ask our Clerk to prepare a list of crisis phone numbers to be displayed at Meeting Houses.

17.02.13: Report and proposed budget for General Purposes Fund

We have received an outline report on the budget and expected expenditure for 2016.

In setting a budget for 2017 we agree to offer Friends up to £300 towards the cost of attending Yearly Meeting Gathering which will be held at Warwick in July/August this year.

We agree to ask our Local Meetings to contribute £10,400 this year and ask our treasurer to agree a schedule with LM treasurers to bring to our next meeting.

We are pleased to hear confirmation that the final payment on the rebuilding of Stockport Meeting House was made at the end of 2016.

We thank Peter Eccles for his work on this.

17.02.14: Northern Friends Peace Board funding

We have heard parts of a letter from the Northern Friends Peace Board. As requested in the letter, we ask our Treasurer to send £800 and encourage our Local Meetings to send at least £4.25 per member to make this up [to the £8.50 requested].

A written report from Christopher Bagley on the recent meeting has been circulated.

17.02.15: Five minute find-out, Alan Ingram

We thank Alan for giving us an insight into his enjoyment of music and showing his range of recorders.

17.02.16: Peace Education Project

A workshop on Peace Education at Regional Gathering was well attended. This interest has been pursued by a group of six ECAM Friends, towards development of a local Peace Education Project. Friends are referred to the report that has been circulated.

Gill Alcock has spoken to us of some of the various ideas the group has been developing, and some of the models Peace Education groups have established around the UK, including difference of focus, and of the extent of involvement of outside groups.

We are inspired by the ideas the group has presented.

We encourage the group to explore ideas further, working with one or two local schools initially, and finding out what other Area Meetings may be interested in being involved with. We ask the group to come back to us with further developments and details of what funding may be appropriate. In the meantime we agree a budget of £1500 for this work from the Gifts and Legacies Fund.

17.02.17: QPSW PECAN appointment, Till Geiger

We note that Till Geiger has been appointed to the Peace Education Campaigning and Networking subcommittee of QPSW. We encourage Area Meeting Friends individually to join Disley Friends in supporting Till in this role.

17.02.18: Nominations

Nominations committee has brought the following names:

Jo Chambers of Marple Meeting to attend QPSW Spring Conference "Journeys of Witness"

Emma Killick and Kate Kerins to represent Disley on CYPC from 2017-2019.

These names being acceptable, the Friends are appointed accordingly.

Junior Yearly Meeting – We have been told that Josie B, Marlo D, Joy W and Antonia M have already booked into Yearly Meeting Gathering, and will be on the JYM programme. It is not therefore appropriate to appoint any others. We agree to fund the places of these four young people.

We have heard a request from Ben Evens that he be released from his dual roles as Membership Clerk, and LoMA coordinator, so we ask Nominations Committee to seek a replacement. We also ask Nominations Committee to find a replacement Safeguarding rep to take over from Janina Miklaszewicz when she leaves the area later this year.

17.02.19: Meeting for Sufferings, 4th February, Report

Andrew Backhouse has reported briefly on Meeting for Sufferings. He has encouraged us to read the report in The Friend, with points on Sustainability, Housing, and in particular the Response to the International Situation (attached).

17.02.20: Glenthorne 2018 dates

Glenthorne Guest House has been booked for 16-18 February 2018 for an Area Meeting weekend. We ask Nominations Committee to find a small group of Friends to organise this event.

17.02.21: Ackworth General Meeting – Report

We thank Till Geiger for the written report that has been circulated.

Till has praised Ackworth School for the education it offers. However, he confesses to unQuakerly thoughts about Ackworth General Meeting and questions the purpose of the General Meeting. Major challenges faced by the school are not brought to the General Meeting.

The school management is planning for conversion to a Public Limited Company but the details of this have not been brought to the General Meeting. Our understanding is that the conversion to a PLC is not unusual.

Till has asked that the question of the application of the national Living Wage Foundation level at the school be included on the next Ackworth General Meeting agenda, but has not received a reply. We ask our Clerk to join Till in writing to the Clerk of the General Meeting about this, copying this to the school.

17.02.22: Woodbrooke course on migration, 3rd-5th February, Report

Julia Horn has given us a brief account of the Woodbrooke weekend on migration. She has encouraged us to avoid contributing to a hostile environment, but to be welcoming and work with existing groups. She encourages us to challenge existing beliefs such as about NI numbers, NHS access, benefits, legalities around renting. We are encouraged to consider the implications of the words we choose to use, eg “refugee”/ “migrant”.

A written report from Till Geiger will be attached.

We look forward to receiving a further report at a future Area Meeting.

Between Meetings Minute

17.02.23: BMM 21st November 2016: Transfer of Membership, out, Elizabeth Maycock

We record that a Certificate of Acceptance of Transfer of Membership has been received from Queensland Regional Meeting, Australia, in respect of Elizabeth Maycock previously of

Disley Meeting into their Regional Meeting. We acknowledge this transfer, and wish Elizabeth well in her new Quaker home.

Signed in and on behalf of the Area Meeting, Frances A Hill, Clerk