

## **Minutes from 2010 regarding the appointment of non-members to certain roles**

### **February 2010 Minute 16: Area meeting appointments – members or non-members.**

For this agenda item we appoint Ann Lewis to be the clerk.

Ben Evens introduced the matter step-by-step for our consideration.

Further to Minute 14 of November AM 2009, which had requested local meetings to consider the issue of whether Friends not in membership could be appointed to AM posts such as clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, elder, overseer or member of nominations committee, we have sought clearness on the matter this afternoon.

Quaker Faith and practice 4.04 makes it clear that Friends should be in membership to fill these posts.

We have read the Minutes sent to AM clerk by local meetings and we have been helped by the visual aid prepared by Ben Evens to whom we give our heartfelt thanks.

We are clear that we are responsible for protecting the integrity of the Society of Friends.

We are clear how many Attenders serve the Society and we are deeply grateful to them.

We are also clear that 'inward membership' exists and that we as an AM need to find a way forward to recognise this.

We agree that before an Attender's name is brought forward to AM for the posts listed above, an understanding should be reached with them about 'inward membership'. To this end we agree in principle to a visit being made to the Attender.

We ask Elders and Overseers to return to AM with a carefully thought-through process to explain and arrange such a visit.

We hope that this process will protect the integrity of the Society whilst providing the flexibility we require.

We ask that the new process will be reviewed bi-annually.

Any outstanding nominations will be brought into this process.

### **May 2010, Minute 14: Area Meeting appointments - members or non-members.**

Further to Minute 16 of February 2010 we have received a report from our Elders and Overseers about this issue, introduced by Alan Russell. We have considered this matter and accept the recommendations contained in their report, which is attached to the minutes.

We ask Elders and Overseers to bring forward names to form the standing group and to advise Area Meeting of its decision.

### **29 April 2010, Elders and Overseers meeting Minute 3: February AM Minute 16: Area Meeting appointments - members or non-members**

Elders and Overseers meeting on 29 April make the following response to the above Minute. Elders and Overseers have considered February Area Meeting Minute 16. We consider that its aims may best be met without the adoption of a routine process of visiting any attenders whom Nominations Committee are considering for one of those posts specified in the minute.

We suggest that a standing group consisting of two Elders and two Overseers from different local meetings, none of whom would be serving on LM or AM nominations committees, should be appointed by their respective groups. If an LM or AM nominations committee were considering the appointment of an attender to one of these special AM posts, that committee should consult with at least two of this group in order to discern the best way forward. The Nominations Committee would then proceed as advised.

Signed Alan Russell Clerk of this meeting.