

STOCKPORT LOCAL MEETING

1 SEPTEMBER 2019

Redacted Minutes

1. Reading

Quaker faith and practice 24.06 has been read.

2. Area Meeting representatives

Area Meeting is at Wilmslow on 7 September 2019 at 10.30 followed by lunch. Our representative will be Pat C.

3. Nominations for 2020

Nominations Committee has brought forward the names of Friends to serve from January 2020. We find these names acceptable. These Friends are therefore appointed. We thank Nominations Committee for their work.

4. Wedding of David K and Peter C

This will take place at the Meeting House on 2 November. Sarah D from Mount Street meeting will be the registering officer. All the necessary paperwork is in order. Elders and Overseers will discuss the wedding at their meeting on 2 September and there will be a further meeting on 3 October to finalise details of numbers and catering. To date 14 guests are expected. Sally M will circulate details to Area Meeting to ascertain which Friends might wish to attend. There will be hymns sung at the wedding and Geoff T is happy to accompany them on the piano. Any recorded music would need a PRS licence.

5. Freedom from Torture event

Freedom from Torture have had an offer from Journeyman Theatre to stage one of their plays and they would like to use the Meeting House as a venue. Phoebe S has asked us to support this and to waive hire fees if it becomes a reality. We agree to this in principle. Freedom from Torture will liaise with the Warden to book a suitable date.

6. Roots of Resistance

Phoebe S has brought to our attention a letter sent by Huddersfield Meeting to local MPs supporting the aims of the Roots of Resistance protests at the Defence and Security Equipment International arms fair to be held in London 9-13 September. Since some Stockport Friends will be taking part in this, she has suggested that we send a similar letter to our local MPs. The Clerk will draft a letter to the Stockport MP, based on the Huddersfield letter. He will send it to Phoebe who will edit as necessary, after which it will be forwarded to the Stockport MP. Individual Friends are encouraged to write to their MPs as well.

7. Inclusivity and diversity – Meeting for Sufferings statement

Earlier this year, Meeting for Sufferings and Young Friends General Meeting issued statements on Inclusivity and diversity. AM Elders and Overseers discussed these at their recent meeting in July. Friends are invited to send any responses, either as individuals or as Local Meetings, by October. Although it might be difficult to respond as a meeting by October, Friends are encouraged to send their own responses. Pat C has suggested we hold our own discussion on these issues facilitated by Geoff T. He will send suitable dates to Events Group, who are meeting on 13 September.

8. Lone worker policy

Area Meeting Trustees are currently working on a policy covering safety and security issues which those alone in meeting houses need to be aware of. Once this is finalised, Local Meetings will be asked to formulate their own policies based on this. Tim C outlined the kind of issues we will need to consider. Formulating our policy will devolve to Premises and Hiring and Employment Committees.

9. The Friend Quaker Week issue

Mary C has proposed that we order multiple copies of the Quaker Week issue of *The Friend* which we can make available in the Meeting House or at local events. The cost would be £10 for 20 copies. Mary has offered to organise this and to pay the cost herself. We thank her for this generous offer.

10. Appeals

We have received appeals from Oxford and Littlehampton Meetings. We agree to send £10 to Oxford and £35 to Littlehampton and ask our Treasurer to arrange this.

11. Present and card for the cleaner

Our cleaner is finishing on 5 September. Pat C has suggested we give him a gift voucher for £50. She will ask him which company he would like the Voucher for. We ask our Treasurer to organise this. A card has already been sent.

12. AOB

- a) £250 has been raised from the sale of jewellery formerly belonging to Marjory R.
- b) Funds in the penny bottle are currently being sent to Freedom from Torture.
- c) Julia H has collected responses concerning our activities as individuals and as a Local Meeting, but hasn't yet sent them to Area Meeting. The Clerk will ascertain from Area Meeting whether these are still needed.
- d) Julia also reminded us that we can contact our MPs face to face as well as in writing.

Geoff T – Clerk

