

**At a meeting of Warwick Friends held at the Quaker Centre**

**on Sunday 7th April 2019**

Present: 10 Friends and Attenders were present for our meeting, starting at 12 noon and Gill Smith acted as the duty Elder.

Minute 19/15 As the Clerk is delayed to-day we appoint Edward Creasy to act as clerk to start the Meeting until Meg Harper arrives and Paul Rutter to act as assistant clerk for to-day.

Minute 19/16 *Advices & Queries* No 27 was read aloud during worship today, April 7th.

Minute 19/17 Past and future area meetings

Dave Rawcliffe represented us at Bull Street FMH on Sat 9th March and reported back to us on Sunday 10th March. We appoint Gill Smith to represent us at Hall Green on Wed April 10th and ask for a report asap after the meeting

Minute 19/18 Minute to record scattering of Grace Stamper's ashes

We record that Grace Stamper's ashes were scattered by her family members in WFMH burial ground on Saturday 9th March at 11am. Jane Holt, was present as an Elder and has completed the necessary documentation forwarding it to our Area Meeting office.

Minute 19/19 Minute to record successful DBS check

We record that DBS disclosure was carried out concerning Karen Barber (Higgins) and is in order. This Friend can now be included on our list of volunteers. The issue date of the disclosure certificate is 26/02/2019.

Minute 19/20 Responsibility Form for Area Meeting

Our Link Trustee, Gill Smith, is willing to help the clerk complete these forms. Members are reminded to submit their responses to the clerk as required. We will return to this matter next time if needed.

The clerk arrived after this item and was able to continue with the remaining business before Friends.

Edward Creasy.

Minute 19/21 Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts

We received the year-end report of the Treasurer (filed with these minutes) and the year's accounts. We thank Sarah Thompson for undertaking this task and for the clarity of the accounts. We extend great gratitude to Marilyn Biles who prepared the end of year accounts. We also thank Anne Ullathorne and Alan Sanger.

Questions were asked about:

The amount budgeted for the works to the Children's Room was questioned and a thorough explanation given. We are awaiting planning permission for this work.

The rental of our flat has made a huge difference to our finances. The cafe takings and the lettings continue to be a good source of income. The accounts are in surplus but we cannot be complacent as a lot of building work needs to be done in the next 2 years.

We approve the accounts and look forward to the completion of the work to the Children's Room.

Minute 19/22 Invitation to be 'associated' with Churches Together in Warwick

At the request of our Clerk, Meg Harper, Elders have asked Churches Together in Warwick, if Warwick Local Meeting can be an 'associate' member of their group, given that, as a non-credal organisation, we would not be able to subscribe to their statement of faith.

Our Elder, Gill Smith, has had a conversation with CTW secretary, Clare Harris, who explained that the feeling of their last meeting was that they would welcome our being associated with them and participating in their meetings on a "Friendly" basis rather than a "legal" understanding of "associated".

We agree that this would be a positive step forward. We ask

Nominations to seek someone to represent us at CTW meetings.

We agree to review this decision after a year. We ask Gill Smith to write to Clare Harris, accepting this invitation and updating CTW as to our position.

Minute 19/23 Proposal to use Gender Neutral Language and concern re Tabular Statement

Our friend, Dave Rawcliffe, brought us two concerns:

- i. the use of Gender Neutral Language in our minutes
- ii. the assumptions of gender recorded without consultation by our Area Meeting's completion of the Tabular Statement

We were considerably exercised by these concerns.

We agree that these are both important concerns, in line with our testimonies to truth and equality and request that our current Clerk and any future clerks seek to use gender neutral language in future minutes. We would also encourage the use of gender neutral language in all our documentation and in our interactions with one another, being mindful of personal preferences. As Quakers, we traditionally use names, not gender specific titles, which is a good starting point.

As regards the concern re the Tabular Statement, we are agreed, as a local meeting, that we have no need to collect information on gender.

We ask our Clerk to ask Area Meeting:

1. Why the Tabular Statement requires information regarding gender.
2. How the information is collected.

We await the response with interest.

Minute 19/24 Response to Minute 19/13 - Report on the Role of the Warden Questionnaire

The Elders brought us the following minute:

*2019/06 – Issues that the recent BM would like our Meeting to consider in depth are what will happen when our Warden retires, and the future of the Quaker Café in Warwick. We think that we should arrange a half day session with an external facilitator at the Meeting House later this year to discuss both these matters. We suggest that we should try and discern together where we want to be as a Meeting in 5 years' time and let the Spirit lead us as to how we get there.*

We accept this minute and look forward to a half-day threshing meeting/meeting of exploration as a starting point, looking at where we want to be as a whole meeting in 5 years' time.

God willing we shall meet again on Sunday May 5th commencing 12 noon after Meeting for Worship, with agenda items and papers to the clerk by Thursday 25th April.

Meg Harper, clerk

Paul Rutter, assistant clerk

#### Continuing Minutes

##### Existing

13/37: WQM Members and Attenders List

14/03 (part) Review of Meeting List (see also 13/37 above)

16/28 (part): Fund-raising committee – annual report – re. use of contribution schedule

18/17: Advice re management of emails and current address list

18/62: Garden Opening times