

**At a meeting of Warwick Friends held at the Quaker Centre
on Sunday 6th October 2019**

Present: 12 Friends were present for our meeting, starting at 12 noon and Rob Hooper and Gill Smith acted as the duty Elders.

Minute 19/58 We appoint Sarah Thompson to act as assistant clerk for the duration of today's meeting.

Minute 19/59 *Advices & Queries* No 8 was read aloud during worship today, October 6th.

Minute 19/60 Past and future area meetings

Gill Smith represented us at Hartshill FMH on Sat 14th Sept and reported back to us on the following Sunday. We appoint Helen Pemberton to represent us on Sat 19th October at Coventry FMH and ask for their report asap after the meeting.

Minute 19/61 Nomination: Meg Harper - 'I believe' column co-ordinator

The name of Meg Harper was brought to us by Nominations Committee to serve as our 'I believe' column co-ordinator for The Courier Newspaper until the end of the year. This name was acceptable to us. We ask that the column is re-published in The Friendly Link.

Minute 19/61 Request from Meeting for Sufferings - Quakers and Gender Diversity

We have been invited by Meeting for Sufferings to reflect and discuss on this topic together, and are encouraged to send personal stories and think-pieces. MFS will return to this topic in October so there is some urgency.

We ask our Clerk to send our minute (19/23) regarding use of gendered language to Quaker Life Central Committee who will be considering the matter further. We also encourage Members and Attenders to make personal responses via gender@quaker.org.uk if they so wish and ask our Clerk to advertise this opportunity when sending out the minutes.

Minute 19/62 Heating the Meeting House for Quaker Meetings - Dave Rawcliffe

We heard from our Friend, Dave Rawcliffe, about their concern to reduce the heating within the Meeting House, during Meetings for Worship, bearing in mind the concern that many Friends and Attenders have regarding the 'climate emergency', and to provide duvets for those who feel cold.

Concern was expressed about the needs of older people and women who often feel the cold more greatly and about providing a welcoming environment.

We established that the proposal was not to turn off the heating completely and received a recommendation that it might be 18C for the normal population and 21C for older people and small children.

We ask Premises and Finance Committee to consider the efficiency and settings of our heating system and ways in which we can manage the temperature eg. thermostatic controls and reconcile this with our concerns regarding climate change. Suggestions which they may want to consider include:

- whether recommendations are made regarding where people sit in the meeting
- whether the curtains should be closed across the back of the meeting room and across the French Windows
- use of individual sources of warmth eg. blankets, hot water bottles etc

- whether the common room should be used as the Meeting room, in the winter months

Minute 19/63 Follow up to our 5 year plan meeting - what next?

We discussed how we should follow up on our Threshing Meeting re our 5 year plan on 21.9.19. (Summary of main points filed with these minutes) Our Friend and Treasurer, Sarah Thompson, pointed out that there seemed to be particular concern amongst us regarding the use of the cafe.

We agree that the way forward from here is for a second meeting to be arranged to take these matters further. This should be after the cafe committee have had time to meet on 18th November. In the meanwhile, any particular comments about the cafe are invited by John Sheldon, the Convenor of the Cafe Committee.

Elders will arrange for the circulation of the comments collected at the meeting on 21st September, possibly by Dropbox.

Minute 19/64 Possible nomination for Assistant Clerk for December's BM - Suggestion from Nominations Committee (follow up to minute 19/46)

This item was Clerked by Sarah Thompson, Assistant Clerk for this Meeting, as our Clerk is an interested party.

Jane Beale read a statement from Nominations Committee which proposed an assistant clerk who would effectively be appointed for one meeting (December 2019) and stated they hoped to bring forward two names as assistant clerks for 2020. The statement stressed the importance which Nominations Committee attach to the role of assistant clerk.

There was some concern about the need to appoint an assistant clerk for just one business meeting and the discomfort felt by the Clerk about this. The process had been initiated in July and circumstances had changed since then, in particular Elders taking the role of reading notices which was much appreciated.

We therefore considered that the best course would be for the proposed r assistant clerk for the remainder of 2019 not to proceed. The nominations process for the appointment of the clerk and assistant clerk (or assistant clerks) for 2020 should take place in the usual way.

We appreciate the hard task facing Nominations Committee in finding Friends to take roles and thank them for their hard work.

God willing we shall meet again on Sunday 3rd November commencing 12 noon after Meeting for Worship, with agenda items and papers to the clerk by Thursday 24th October.

Meg Harper, Clerk

Sarah Thompson, Assistant
Clerk for this meeting

Continuing Minutes

Existing

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