

At a meeting of Warwick Friends held at the Quaker Centre

on Sunday 2nd February 2020

Present: 23 Friends were present for our meeting, starting at 12 noon and John Sheldon acted as the duty Elder.

Minute 20/01 *Advices & Queries 6* was read aloud during worship today, February 2nd.

Minute 20/02 Past and future area meetings

Paula Button represented us at Bull Street FMH on Sat 18th January and reported back to us on the following Sunday. We appoint Dave Rawcliffe to represent us on Sat 7th March at Hall Green FMH and ask for their report asap after the meeting.

Minute 20/03 Record of Memorandum of Understanding Completion.

We record that the biennial Memorandum of Understanding has been completed and signed and passed to our link trustee, Gill Smith.

Minute 20/04 Helping Hands Donation Box

We received a proposal from Gill de Calvo that, as well as a Food Bank Donations Box, we have a donations box for the Helping Hands Charity, in Leamington Spa, which works especially with the homeless. Gill would be able to provide the box and to empty it when appropriate.

Some of us would prefer to find out more about this charity in advance of making a decision on this matter. We ask Gill de Calvo to arrange with representatives of Helping Hands to come to talk with us about the charity and local needs, and Friends to conduct their own research into the charity and its work.

We will return to this matter at our April Business Meeting.

Minute 20/05 Purchase of Tessa Beaver Print

We heard that a print by our late Friend, Tessa Beaver can be purchased from Leamington Art Gallery and a proposal that we buy a print it, for display at the Meeting House, possibly in the Common Room.

We ask Ann James to purchase the said print, and our Premises and Finance Committee to arrange for it to be framed. We note that Gill de Calvo has a friend who might be able to help with this.

The cost of around £350 is to be covered from our General Fund.

Minute 20/06 Faith Forum Report

We received a very enlivening Faith Forum report from our representative Ann James. We are inspired and encouraged by this and thank our Friend very much for their work in this area.

We are delighted that, through the Faith Forum, a Quaker Meeting has been held at Queensway Court and will be again.

We draw attention to the Faith Forum calendars which are free for us to take and use, and the Annual Conference and Faiths Trail. We ask that the latter two events and any others are publicised by email to Friends, as well as in the Friendly Link.

Minute 20/07 Concern re South Birmingham Meetings

We have received a minute from Area Meeting, asking us to send a minute by the end of March, regarding a concern that several smaller meetings in our Area Meeting, especially in South Birmingham, are struggling to keep going. We have also received a document from Hilary Johnson, of Cotteridge Meeting, outlining

her ideas for support and regeneration for these meetings and also from Ruth Gaston, of Warwick Meeting. We applaud the energy and enthusiasm of both these Friends.

We are also asked to respond to the idea of applying for a local development worker in our area.

This matter created considerable discussion.

We heard from Jane Holt, a member of the Elders' and Overseers' Support Group, that we are encouraged to work collaboratively with meetings local to us, as could South Birmingham meetings, in order to become more of what we already are and to support one another practically.

We agree that this is a matter of concern and support the idea of applying for a local development worker who might work to support smaller meetings that are struggling in particular, but not excluding other meetings.

Our Friend, Ruth Gaston, is particularly impassioned to support the South Birmingham Meetings. We very much recommend her to Area Meeting as a Friend of passion and vision who has tested and carried her vision for five years and who is completely open to help and support the South Birmingham Meetings in whatever way she can.

We therefore suggest that a group is formed comprising Hilary Johnson, Ruth Gaston and other Friends. This is the time to move forward.

We ask our Clerk to forward this minute to Area Meeting.

Minute 20/08 Plan for Peace Festival

We received a plan (filed with these minutes) for this year's Leamington Peace Festival, which includes holding a half-hour Meeting for Worship within the 'Quiet Hour', performing a play (by the children and young people) about Joan of Arc and providing glitter tattoos. We enthusiastically welcome the plan and ask our Friend, John Harding, to take it forward, sorting out the fine detail (venue etc) with the Peace Festival Organisers and our Elders

We also ask our Peace Festival Representatives to take forward the idea of having a Quaker Meeting on the Saturday afternoon.

God willing we shall meet again on Sunday March 1st commencing 12 noon after Meeting for Worship, with agenda items and papers to the clerk by Thursday 20th February.

Meg Harper, clerk

Continuing Minutes

19/70: (part) Proposed New Role - Keeper of the Members and Attenders contact list

20/04: Helping Hands Donations Box

Existing

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