

# Minutes of Meeting for Sufferings 7 June 2014

## **MfS 2014 06 01          Worship**

Parts of section 10.03 of *Quaker faith & practice* have been read in our opening worship, and we have remembered former members of this meeting who have recently died.

## **MfS 2014 06 02          Apologies**

We receive apologies from Hardshaw and Mann Area Meeting, Leicester Area Meeting and Dorset and South Wiltshire Area Meeting, which have not been able to send a representative on this occasion.

## **MfS 2014 06 03          Minutes**

The minutes of our meeting held on 5 April 2014 have been signed.

## **MfS 2014 06 04          Adoption of agenda**

We have reflected on issues to be considered during our meeting and have agreed the agenda.

## **MfS 2014 06 05          Minutes received not taken elsewhere**

### **a) From Area Meetings**

#### **1 Pendle Hill AM regarding drilling for natural gas in the UK**

We receive minute 6a of Pendle Hill AM held on 8 March 2014 regarding drilling for natural gas in the UK.

We forward this minute to Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee and ask them for advice.

#### **2 Wensleydale & Swaledale AM regarding moving forward on sustainability**

We receive minute 14/36 of Wensleydale & Swaledale AM held on 11 May 2014 regarding moving forward on sustainability.

We forward this minute to Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee and to Minute 36 Group, and ask them for advice.

#### **3 London West AM regarding assisted dying and Leeds AM regarding end of life care**

We receive minute 2014/36 of London West AM regarding assisted dying and minute 4 of Leeds AM held on 1 May 2014 regarding end of life care.

We have heard that Quaker Life Central Committee will be spending part of its committee meeting in September reflecting on end of life issues.

We forward these minutes to Quaker Life Central Committee and ask them to bring these matters back to Meeting for Sufferings in December.

#### **4 Cambridgeshire AM and Oxford and Swindon AM regarding education**

We receive minute 11 of Cambridgeshire AM held on 15 March 2014 and 23/2014 of Oxford and Swindon AM held on 17 May 2014, regarding education. We have heard that a threshing gathering is being planned for the weekend of 29-31 August, to enable Friends from different Area Meetings to consider together how to take this concern forward. We encourage Meetings which share the concern to support members' participation in the gathering.

#### **5 Bristol AM regarding Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture**

We receive and note a minute from Bristol AM held on 24 April 2014 regarding the AM's decision not to appoint another trustee to Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture.

#### **6 Leicester AM and Notts and Derby AM regarding the recent statement on Economic Inequality**

We receive minute 14/35 of Leicester Area Meeting held on 11 May 2014 and minute 14/26 of Notts & Derby AM, regarding the recent statement on Economic Inequality.

We forward these minutes to Quaker Peace and Social Witness, for information.

#### **7 Gloucestershire AM regarding the current situation in Ukraine**

We receive minute 36/14 of Gloucestershire AM held on 11 May regarding the current situation in Ukraine.

We note that the Annual Meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation—Europe and Middle East Section considered the situation in Eastern Europe and agreed to encourage and uphold the concern of Misha Roshchin of Moscow Monthly Meeting and Roland Rand of Tallin Worship group to visit Eastern Ukraine to hear views on the situation and what needs to be done; to work with individuals and organisations to defuse tension; and to talk to international bodies concerned with averting open conflict. We are glad to know that a support group comprising Kees Nieuwerth of Netherlands YM, Johan Mauer of Moscow Monthly Meeting, and John Lampen of Britain Yearly Meeting has been formed.

We encourage Friends to support this concern, both prayerfully and financially.

We forward this minute to Europe and Middle East Section of FWCC and Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee.

## a) From Central Committees

### **Transforming Rehabilitation programme**

Further to minute S/13/10/16/a/2, we receive minute CCJS/2014/09 of QPSW's Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee meeting held on 31 January 2014. This responds to a concern from Worcestershire and Shropshire AM about the privatisation of probation work. We note that the Committee fears the changes may result in a fragmented and less effective service, and is maintaining a watching brief.

### **MfS 2014 06 06 Long Term Framework**

The Long Term Framework Working Group has brought a draft plan along with an invitation to Friends to participate in a consultation process.

Working in small groups, we have considered the four questions posed by the Group in its invitation letter.

We have welcomed the chance to reflect on the draft document. We feel it is important to explain what the Framework will be for, and not to lose sight of the work that went into, and resulted from, the previous document (AFFA). We have heard a number of responses to the document, including the importance of looking at the underpinning principles of our work at all levels, considering 'What is our Ministry?', and how our vision needs to inform our life as Friends and action in the world.

The Group have listened to our consideration and we uphold them in taking this forward.

We look forward to encouraging local and area meetings to set time aside before the end of the year to work with a revised consultation document, and to send responses before the end of January 2015.

### **MfS 2014 06 07 Membership and appointments**

Since our last meeting we have received the following nominations and requests for release for Meeting for Sufferings until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2015:

#### **Nominated:**

Leeds AM	Alternate	Charlotte Allen
YFGM	Representative	Rebecca Riddell

#### **Release requests received:**

Leeds AM	Alternate	Rhiannon Grant
Pendle Hill AM	Representative	Nick Tyldesley
YFGM	Representative	Rachael Harrison

We appoint the Friends named and thank the Friends released for their service.

Visitor invited to represent area meetings/committees in the absence of appointed representative and alternate:

Judith Niechcial                      South East London AM

**Other visitors:**

Sarah Coote	BYM rep to QCEA
Julia Gordon	Long Term Framework Working Group
Suze Lidbury	Events & Committee Services Team Leader
Jessica Metherringham	Parliamentary Engagement Officer
Catherine Putz	Central Nominations Committee
Peter Sender	Strategy & Development Co-ordinator

**b) Yearly Meeting Nominating Group**

brings forward the names of the following Friends for service:

Central Nominations Committee

Nominated on behalf of Yearly Meeting to serve in the interim to Yearly Meeting 2014, to fill existing vacancies. These Friends were appointed between meetings by the clerks of Meeting for Sufferings:

Jane Nicholls	Teesdale & Cleveland AM
Gladstone Providence	Luton & Leighton AM
Christine Habgood-Coote	Sussex East AM

**c) Central Nominations Committee**

brings forward the name of the following Friend for service:

Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations

To serve from May 2014 to April 2017

Douglas Butterfield	Chilterns AM
---------------------	--------------

We appoint the Friend named.

Friends Trusts Ltd

Central Nominations Committee asks us to adjust the period of service for Lucy Parker of Norfolk & Waveney AM, previously appointed at our April meeting. We agree to change this appointment to begin on 1 June 2015 and to end on 31 May 2018.

We note the following appointment made between meetings by our clerks:

Northern Friends Summer Youth Events Charitable Trust

To serve from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016

Tom Sayles

North Scotland AM

**MfS 2014 06 08**

**Central Nominations Committee**

Patricia Cockrell, clerk to Central Nominations Committee, has spoken to her report (MfS 2014 06 08).

Patricia asked Meeting for Sufferings to consider suggestions of ways in which young Friends could be involved in the nomination process; the use of social media or the occasional advertisement in the search for suitable names; distributing new Quaker Service Information Forms in Area Meetings, which we note are also available online. We note that a new form is likely to be launched at YMG.

We have heard some initial reactions to the report, including different views on advertising. More work is needed on the questions raised in the report. Some of this might be done by CNC working with Quaker Life and the Quaker Life Network.

We note Central Nominations Committee's request for its membership to be reduced from 27 members to 21 and for its terms of reference to be changed accordingly. This decision would be taken by Yearly Meeting. To help such a decision, we agree to establish a review group. We ask the Recording Clerk to bring Terms of Reference to our September meeting.

We ask Colin Gerard, Andrew Backhouse and Linda Murgatroyd to form an ad-hoc nominations group, and ask them to bring 3 to 5 names for appointment to a review group to our September meeting.

We forward this minute to Quaker Life Central Committee and to Central Nominations Committee.

**MfS 2014 06 09**

**BYM Trustees**

Jennifer Barraclough, clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, has reported on their work, including an update on the review of Standing Committees and the Investment Policy. We receive the minutes of BYM Trustees' meetings held on 4 April 2014 and 30 May to 1 June 2014.

We note that, further to our minute MfS 2014 04 05, Revision of the Book of Discipline, Trustees have allocated resources to support the secondment from Woodbrooke of Helen Rowlands, part time over an initial period of one year. Helen will work with the Review Preparation Group and support the process of threshing and testing a number of issues.

We have also heard of their consideration of what is needed to be an effective trustee body, including what they can do to achieve a more diverse membership, in particular considering the question for potential nominees of 'how can we make this work for you?' We are also cheered by their reflection that 'although there is no glory, there is much joy' (BYMT minute 2014 05/06-11).

### **MfS 2014 06 10                      Quaker Council for European Affairs**

Sarah Coote, BYM's representative to Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), has spoken to us about the work of the Council. We receive her report of the QCEA's Council meeting held on 4 and 5 April 2014.

The Council is based in Brussels and aims to be the 'Quaker voice in Europe', relating to both the EU and the Council of Europe. The main areas of work are peace, the EU relationship with Israel and Palestine, human rights, criminal justice, and sustainability.

In particular Sarah has highlighted the work QCEA is doing on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and we encourage Friends to familiarise themselves with this.

Where appropriate, Area Meetings can send donations to QCEA via the British Committee, to fund their work.

### **MfS 2014 06 11                      Minute 36 (Canterbury) Commitment Group**

Minute 36 (Canterbury) Commitment Group has brought its strategy document, 'Recommendations for Action – becoming a low carbon sustainable community' (MfS 2014 06 11).

We agree to forward the document to Yearly Meeting.

Meeting for Sufferings established the Minute 36 Group to work until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2014. The Group has identified the need for leadership and oversight, to ensure that Quakers in Britain continue and build on the progress we have already made. To strengthen the work, the Group proposes a different approach, with a new Group formed from appointed Friends.

We agree to set up a group as set out in the paper. We ask the Deputy Recording Clerk to bring Terms of Reference to our next meeting, and Central Nominations Committee to bring names for appointment in the autumn.

### **MfS 2014 06 12                      Listed Informal Groups**

Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, introduced paper MfS 2014 06 12, proposing a review of the Listed Informal Groups arrangement.

We agree to establish a review group. We ask the Deputy Recording Clerk to bring Terms of Reference to our next meeting, and ask Central Nominations Committee to bring 3-5 names for appointment in the autumn.

Ethel Livermore  
Clerk