

## Calling Letter



Yearly Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

### To members of Meeting for Sufferings

18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all and we are looking forward to our meeting on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the Small Meeting House (Sarah Fell) at Friends House, London.

The agenda is attached together with the supporting papers and you will see that we have made a change this time by including, for certain more straight-forward items, what we think could be a draft minute. This is where Arrangements Group are suggesting a particular course of action. Obviously the meeting can disagree with any of these suggestions but we hope it may help to move the business forward if we take these items starting with the 'suggested minutes'.

The main items this time are the consideration of the 'truth in the world' item, originally sent to us last year by Southern Marches Area Meeting, an update from our YM clerk about 2019 Yearly Meeting, and a return to the review of the representative and alternate system. We then have our usual business of hearing from the trustees of the centrally managed work, approving Quaker Recognised Bodies and receiving Area Meeting minutes. Within all this we hope we will be able to strengthen our fellowship, deepen our worship together and to hear of those things that are eternal, in the midst of needful administration.

If you have any specific comments or queries about any of the papers or supporting documents sent to you, it is helpful if you email [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) before the meeting so that we can respond directly if necessary or at least be better prepared!

In peace and friendship,



Anne Ullathorne, Clerk

## **Papers enclosed with this mailing**

### Agenda

MfS Arrangements Group December 2018 meeting minutes

MfS 2019 02 05 Court & Prison Register

MfS 2019 02 06 Draft terms of reference

MfS 2019 02 07 The Post Truth World

MfS 2019 02 08 Yearly Meeting

MfS 2019 02 10 BYM Trustees minutes from their November 2018 meeting

MfS 2019 02 11 Representatives and alternates

MfS 2019 02 12 Quaker Recognised Bodies

MfS 2019 02 13a Minutes received from AM's

MfS 2019 02 13b Minutes received from CC's

n.b. the following papers will be available on the day of the meeting:

MfS 2019 02 03 Membership

MfS 2019 02 09 Appointments

## **A reminder of how you can prepare for the meeting**

- Register (to help staff prepare rooms and refreshments)
- Go through the 'Essential Information'
- Read the agenda papers in good time
- Contact the other representative/alternate from your area meeting or body
- Consider possible names for a standing nominations group
- Send any comments or questions to the clerks, before the meeting



Britain Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious  
Society of Friends

## Meeting for Sufferings 2 February 2019

Sarah Fell, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

### Agenda

	Item	Paper
<b>09.00</b>	<b>Arrivals</b>	
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Session starts</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening worship</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Membership (Tabled Paper)</b>	<b>MfS 2019 02 03</b> to note
<b>4</b>	<b>Agenda</b> Adoption and acceptance of the agenda.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Court and Prison Register</b>	<b>MfS 2019 02 05</b> for decision
<b>6</b>	<b>To approve the Terms of Reference for two new MfS groups</b> To approve the Terms of Reference for the Meeting for Sufferings Standing Nominations Group and the Meeting for Sufferings Sustainability Monitoring Group.	<b>MfS 2019 02 06</b> for approval
	<b>Short Break</b> (please hold the silence in the meeting room)	
<b>7</b>	<b>The Post Truth World – Truth and Integrity in the Public Sphere</b> To consider the concern of Southern Marches AM, including responses from Area Meetings.	<b>MfS 2019 02 07</b> for decision
<b>8</b>	<b>Yearly Meeting</b> a) To hear about the agenda planned for Yearly Meeting 2019. b) To receive an updated draft of the 2019 MfS Annual Report to Yearly Meeting c) To receive Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee Minutes YMAC 2018/10/15 regarding proposed dates for Yearly Meetings in 2021 and 2022.	<b>MfS 2019 02 08</b> a) for information b) for approval c) to confirm
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Informal lunchtime gatherings</b> Opportunities to meet with: • BYM Trustees (over lunch in the restaurant)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Marches AM representative(s) in the Hilda Clark room</li> </ul>	
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Session starts</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Appointments (Tabled Paper)</b>	<b>MfS 2019 02 09</b> for approval
<b>10</b>	<b>BYM Trustees</b> To receive a report from the clerk of Trustees. To receive <b>minute BYMT 2018/11/05</b> from the meeting held 16 November 2018 regarding investments in the Palestinian occupied territories with the current investment policy and <b>minute BYMT 2018/11/15</b> from the meeting held 16 November 2018 regarding strategic priorities.	<b>MfS 2019 02 10</b> for information
<b>11</b>	<b>Current system of Area Meeting representation on MfS</b> To review the current approach to AM representation on MfS.	<b>MfS 2019 02 11</b> for consideration
	<b>Short Break</b> (please hold the silence in the meeting room)	
<b>12</b>	<b>Quaker Recognised Bodies</b> To approve and register further Quaker Recognised Bodies.	<b>MfS 2019 02 12</b> for approval
<b>13</b>	<b>Minutes received from AM's &amp; GM's (13a)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Quakers in the First World War</b> – minutes from Lincolnshire AM, Hampshire &amp; Islands AM and Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru / Meeting of Friends in Wales.</li> <li><b>North Somerset AM Minute 51/18</b> regarding the BYM initiative to make our meetings simpler.</li> </ul> <b>Minutes received from CC's (13b)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Central Nominations Committee minute 2018/11/35</b> regarding reviewing the committee's Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>	<b>MfS 2019 02 13</b> for consideration
	<b>Closing worship</b>	
<b>16.00</b>	<b>Close. Tea, coffee and departures</b>	



Yearly Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers) in  
Britain

At a meeting of

## **Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group**

21 December 2018 at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

**Present:** Margaret Bryan (convenor), Karen Draycott, Gill Greenfield, Sherry-Ann Mitchell, Mark Lilley, Juliet Prager, Anne Ullathorne

### **1. Reflections on last Meeting for Sufferings**

We have received feedback from Meeting for Sufferings support group and other friends. We felt that the sessions on Saturday went well, with much appreciation for the broad overview of the centrally-managed work. On the other hand, the Sunday morning session was very full.

### **2. Meetings attended by the clerks**

- I. Anne met with the Clerk of BYM Trustees and Central Committee Clerks and also Exeter friends.
- II. Gill spoke at an interest group at the Area Meeting Clerks conference
- III. Karen attended Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee on our behalf and found it a very enriching experience.

### **3. Forward agenda**

We have reviewed our forward agenda which informs our planning.

### **4. Agenda planning for the next meeting in February 2019**

We have planned the agenda for our February meeting.

### **5. MfS draft annual report**

We received the next draft of this report and agreed it, with minor revisions.

### **6. Other matters**

- I. Review of the representatives and alternates system will come to our February meeting.
- II. Gill will look at the Gold Minutes spreadsheet
- III. Quaker World Relations Forum on 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Gill will attend on our behalf.

## **7. Date and time of next meetings 2019**

Monday 18 February 2019 (11-3.30pm)

Thursday 30 May 2019 (11-3.30pm)

Thursday 22 August 2019 (11-3.30pm)

Thursday 31 October 2019 (11-3.30pm)

Margaret Bryan  
Convenor

## **Court and prison register**

### **Introduction**

Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) was established in 1676, to consider the sufferings experienced by Quakers for their faith. Gradually the practice of recording Friends' names in the 'Great book of Sufferings' lapsed; but in 1997 MfS decided to maintain a register of Friends before the courts or imprisoned for matters of conscience. This enables us to record events, as well as to uphold the Friends concerned and to share information about their witness.

MfS is invited to consider making an entry in the court and prison register regarding two sets of action: the Stansted 15, and Extinction Rebellion.

### **Stansted 15**

Last October, Meeting for Sufferings made an entry in the Court and Prison Register; minute MfS 18/10/06 reads:

*We have heard that on 28 March 2017, Lyndsay Burtonshaw, an attender at Brighton Meeting, along with 14 others, entered the perimeter of Stansted Airport and stopped a deportation charter flight. They have been charged, and the trial in Chelmsford Crown Court which began on 1 October is expected to last 7 weeks. The group is being supported by Chelmsford Quaker Meeting, Quaker Asylum-Seeker and Refugee Network (QARN) and BYM's Sanctuary Everywhere Programme.*

*We ask for this information to be included in the Court and Prison Register. We hold Lyndsay Burtonshaw in the Light.*

On 10 December 2018, the jury at Chelmsford Crown Court found all fifteen defendants guilty of intentional disruption of services and endangerment at an aerodrome under the 1990 Aviation and Maritime Security Act. All were bailed to be sentenced in February.

Chelmsford Quakers, QARN, BYM's Sanctuary Everywhere programme, and other Friends continue to support the defendants. BYM made a statement about the case on 10 December<sup>1</sup>.

The clerk of Sussex West AM has let us know that it recorded news of the trial at its meeting held on 15 November 2018; its minute noted:

*We ask Friends to contact Brighton LQM to find out how they can support Lyndsay and others in this campaign.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-stand-with-stansted15-on-human-rights-day>

Leicester Area Meeting has sent the following minute of its meeting held on 13 January 2019:

**19.28** *Leicester Area Meeting received a minute of concern about the Stansted 15 whose trial is of political and legal significance in terms of the right to peaceful protest, as is the whole issue of deportation. We are aware that Britain Yearly Meeting is engaged with this issue but Leicester Local Meeting have also suggested the following ways that Quakers can take action locally.*

*1) Make a display to share the issue with local users of the Quaker meeting house.*

*2) Take individual action as suggested:*

- To support the Stansted 15 themselves;*
- To support the campaign to end deportation;*
- To support the appeal fund through the crowd-funder appeal at [enddeportations.com](http://enddeportations.com)*

*3) Ask Sanctuary Meeting Reps to make contact with other faith groups and explore a course of action.*

*4) That Leicester Local Meeting makes a financial contribution to the appeal fund of £100.*

*We ask our clerks to forward this concern to Meeting for Sufferings.*

## **Extinction Rebellion**

### **Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting held on 13 January 2019**

#### **19/01/05 Court and Prison Register**

*We have received the following minute from Huddersfield Meeting*

#### 18.12.67 Court and prison register

*Further to Minute 18.11.56 Ian Bray has been arrested three times over the last month as part of the Extinction Rebellion action, he has not been charged but his case is pending investigation.*

*Chayley Collis, also a member of our meeting (although she hasn't attended for some years), was also among those arrested as part of the Extinction Rebellion nonviolent direct action. She was arrested for blockading Blackfriars Bridge and released a few hours later; she is awaiting news of a possible charge.*



*"I have campaigned on climate change for 30+ years and civil disobedience now seems like the only route left open to us given the urgency of the timescales and the government's complete disregard for our safety and futures of our children – for example, the latest budget ignoring IPCC report, as well as support for fracking, Heathrow expansion, ditching support for renewables, etc. A better world is possible!"*

*Jan Walters, Chris Herring, Rosie Laver, Jane Wood and Bert Hategekimana Wood were also in London at the Extinction Rebellion day.*

*We have also heard from Ian Bray that he is released pending investigation after his three arrests.*

*We forward this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.*

*The clerks suggest this possible draft minute:*

### **MfS 2019/02/XX Court and Prison Register**

Further to our minute MfS 18/10/06, we note that on 10 December 2018, Lyndsay Burtonshaw, an attender at Brighton Meeting, along with 14 others, was found guilty in Chelmsford Crown Court of intentional disruption of services and endangerment at an aerodrome under the 1990 Aviation and Maritime Security Act. They were all bailed and expect to be sentenced in February. We are aware that these charges could result in lengthy custodial sentences. We receive minute 19.38 of Leicester AM held on 13 January 2019, about their support for the group.

We also receive minute 19/01/05 of Brighouse West Yorkshire AM letting us know that two of its members, Ian Bray and Chayley Collis, have been arrested undertaking action as part of the Extinction Rebellion movement. At this stage neither has been charged.

We ask for this information to be included in the Court and Prison Register and hold the Friends concerned in the Light.

## **Draft Terms of Reference**

This paper contains two sets of terms of reference, for Meeting for Sufferings to consider and approve.

### **a) Meeting for Sufferings Standing Nominations Group**

This group was set up last October (MfS/18/10/10 Nominations and Appointments); staff were asked to bring draft terms of reference.

### **b) Meeting for Sufferings Sustainability Monitoring Group**

This group was set up last November (Minute MfS/18/11/18 Sustainability: living up to our commitment); the Recording Clerk was asked to bring draft terms of reference.

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## **Meeting for Sufferings Standing Nominations Group Terms of Reference**

### **1 Summary of purpose**

- 1.1 The Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) Standing Nominations Group (SNG) is responsible for bringing forward the names of Friends to serve for the appointments referred to it by Meeting for Sufferings.

### **2. Membership**

- 2.1 The MfS SNG comprises between 3 and 5 serving members of MfS (representatives and/or alternates). Members are appointed for up to 3 years, to serve during a Triennium and until the second meeting of the following Triennium.
- 2.2 MfS SNG appoints a convener from its membership.
- 2.3 A member of staff designated by the Recording Clerk will act as administrative secretary to the group.

### **3 Frequency and format of Meetings**

- 3.1 MfS Standing Nominations Group will meet as often as is required for its task. It is expected that much of its work can be undertaken between meetings by telephone, online meetings, email or through the post.
- 3.2 It is not expected that all members of MfS SNG participate in every nominations process. For each search two or three members of the group will form a search group.

### **4 Duties & responsibilities**

- 4.1 The group will bring forward as required the names of members of Meeting for Sufferings to serve on MfS working groups, where the group is formed from members of Meeting for Sufferings.
- 4.2 The group will seek nominations on the basis of its own discernment and in line with the general guidance on nominations in Quaker faith & practice 3.22 – 3.25.

- 4.3 The group will liaise with MfS Arrangements Group and with any group for which it is seeking names, in order to ascertain needs, views and suggestions.
- 4.4 The group will seek names for nomination with due regard for balance (such as for age, gender, geographical spread, experience and length of service) within the agreed criteria for each appointment.
- 4.6 The group will have access, through its administrative secretary, to the list of members of Meeting for Sufferings and their contact details.
- 4.7 The group is accountable to Meeting for Sufferings and should report to MfS if requested. It may also report to MfS, and may request an agenda item through with MfS Arrangements Group.

The committee shall work within these terms of reference, as approved by minute xx of Meeting for Sufferings held 2 February 2019. The terms of reference will be reviewed every three years.

## **Meeting for Sufferings Sustainability Monitoring Group Terms of Reference**

### **1 Summary of purpose**

- 1.1 Accountable to Meeting for Sufferings, the Sustainability Monitoring Group is responsible for monitoring the Yearly Meeting's commitment to Sustainability.

### **2. Membership**

- 2.1 The group will comprise 3 Friends appointed for up to 3 years.
- 2.2 The group will appoint a convener from its membership.
- 2.3 A member of staff designated by the Recording Clerk will act as administrative secretary to the group.
- 2.4 The group may co-opt one or two additional members if this is required, and consult others if necessary

### **3 Frequency of Meetings**

- 3.1 The group will meet as often as is required for its task. It is expected that much of its work can be undertaken between meetings by telephone, online meeting, email or through the post.

### **4 Duties & responsibilities**

- 4.1 The group supports Meeting for Sufferings in overseeing the Yearly Meeting's commitment to sustainability. The group monitors receipt of reports from Trustees, committees and area meetings that are sent to MfS; that agreed activities are undertaken; and that MfS pays attention to our sustainability commitment in its meetings.

- 4.2 The group should check that MfS includes a substantive agenda item about sustainability at least once a year.
- 4.3 The group should check that central and standing committees, Quaker Stewardship Committee and BYM Trustees report to MfS annually on how their work is helping and encouraging Friends to take forward this commitment.
- 4.2. The group should be guided by paper MfS/18/11/18 and minute MfS/18/11/18 (attached as appendices) which set out the purpose of the group.
- 4.4 The group is accountable to Meeting for Sufferings. The group should report to MfS annually, and may report more often if necessary by agreement with MfS Arrangements Group
- 4.3 The group should work closely with Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group. It may communicate formally by minute with central and standing committees, Quaker Stewardship Committee and BYM Trustees, although informal communication is encouraged where possible.
- 4.4 The group will have access, through its administrative secretary, to the relevant reports and papers.

The committee shall work within these terms of reference, as approved by minute xx of Meeting for Sufferings held 2 February 2019. The terms of reference will be reviewed every three years.

## Post-truth world

### Introduction

In April 2018, Meeting for Sufferings received a minute from Southern Marches Area Meeting and, following consideration and discernment, agreed the following minute:

#### ***MfS/18/04/09 The post-truth world and Quaker response***

*We receive minute 18/06 of Southern Marches Area Meeting held on 13 January 2018. The Area Meeting has been considering the question of restoring truth and integrity in the public sphere, and their leadings as individuals, as local meetings and as an area meeting.*

*Friends in Southern Marches AM are concerned about a lack of honesty in public affairs; and that in turn this impacts on how we live Quaker values in the world. The AM recognises that we need to begin with ourselves before pointing the finger at others; to be open to listening to those with whom we disagree (including via social media), and communicate with those who do not share our views. We have also been reminded about work within our Yearly Meeting in 1990 – 2004 under the heading 'Truth and Integrity in Public Affairs', which was laid down at a time when the energy and sense of urgent leading in the concern had abated.*

*MfS has heard a clear call to test this concern more widely and will send this minute and the briefing papers to Area Meetings. We ask Friends to consider this concern, to send any relevant minutes for our further discernment and to share news of any work they are already doing. We expect to return to this matter in November.*

We return to this issue at our meeting in February 2019 having received minutes from 36 of our 70 Area Meetings and noting that 33 have not responded formally. It has been difficult for AMs to address this issue in the midst of other pressing items needing agenda time.

Of the 36 minutes received, 3 explain that the concern has not been tested (South Wales, North London and Sussex East) and 14 have considered the matter but remain unclear as to the way forward. There are 9 that clearly do not unite with and/or recognise the concern leaving 10 AMs who do unite with Southern Marches concern, to a greater or lesser extent. Further details and some extracts of the relevant minutes are to be found in Appendix A.

Meeting for Sufferings needs to consider this concern further and particularly, in the context of its role in 'making decisions' and playing a part in 'developing a visionary and prophetic role for the whole yearly meeting'. **(Qf&p 7.02)**

The focus of the concern is on truth and honesty within public affairs, within the world and within social media. This leads from our testimony to truth and integrity in all we do and we are focussing on truth as honesty rather than as 'the truth' as spiritual enlightenment as, for example when Jesus proclaims 'I am the way, the truth and

the life (**John 14v6**) or Margaret Fell says that 'The Truth is one and the same always, and though ages and generations pass away, and one generation goes and another comes, yet the word and power and spirit of the living God endures for ever, and is the same and never changes.' (**Qf&p 19.61**).

### **Individual example**

Relevant guidance for our own practice may be found in **Advices and Queries** and in **Qf&p chapter 20 43- 66**. It covers such worldly activities as conduct of our daily business, confidentiality, proper payment of obligations, consideration of source and use of income, gambling, care of money held in trust, dealing with situations of conflict and the exhortation for our yes to mean yes and our no mean no (**Qf&p 20.45** and **Matthew 5 v37**).

Quakers have always stressed the importance of being personally truthful, straightforward, clear and simple in all they do and say. Do we maintain that practice now? Do we ensure that this testimony is explained and encourage friends to follow it? Do we also take care that our plain speech is not received as hurtful and uncaring criticism? Unnecessary bluntness can easily be perceived as rudeness.

### **Truth in the world**

Southern Marches are urging us to consider the state of untruth in the world. It seems that the phrase 'post-truth' is not generally understood and may be considered to be unhelpful – there has never been truth in the world but perhaps we feel the need to speak out more forcefully about lies as and when we are aware of them. How can we help friends in local meetings to do this more courageously and effectively, if that is what is required?

At a national level, our speaking out is already rooted in Quaker principle : we only speak from the individual and corporate Quaker experience, where we have specific knowledge or insight and we try to hold our leaders, politicians and others to account as and when we can. This is already part of our national and local witness and so it is doubtful if there is much more that Sufferings can add. We are not a political party, but a religious society and as such we may be led to say uncomfortable things, called to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable.

There are other groups and organisations trying to establish greater truth and transparency in debate of all kind and it may be right to encourage those concerned to work more closely with them. A list of organisations may be found in appendix 2.

### **Conclusion**

Meeting for Sufferings is invited to consider their response to the Southern Marches minute and to consider what Quakers might do practically. Already discussion arising from the minute has enabled Friends from about half of our meetings to consider their own personal and local response and has encouraged us to re-commit to our testimony of truth.

We know that we cannot call for any new programme of national work without laying existing work down, and we have already minuted our support of the priorities for centrally-managed work which our trustees have shared with us at our last meeting.

Anne Ullathorne, MfS Clerk  
11 January 2019

Appendix 1- summary of minutes received  
Appendix 2 – relevant organisations  
Appendix 3 – suggested opening of draft minute

## Appendix 1 – Summary of minutes received

### Introduction

The full minutes sent to Meeting for Sufferings are not included in the to this paper, as together they run to 65 pages. They can be made available on request: please email [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) or ring Graham Spackman, 020 7663 1021.

### How many AMs responded?

There are 70 AMs (including Southern Marches, which sent the original minute)

- 36 sent minutes
- 33 have not responded formally

Of the 36 minutes sent, 3 explained that the concern had not been tested:

- South Wales AM (attached local meeting minutes, which expressed a range of views)
- North London AM (explained that the AM had not been able to respond. One LM was seriously considering uniting with the concern, but had not been able to conclude discernment)
- Sussex East AM (indicated earlier in the year that a minute would be sent, but nothing has arrived)

33 AMs sent substantive minutes. The minutes don't easily fall into categories, but broadly:

- 10 AMs unite with the concern, to a greater or lesser extent
- 9 AMs do not unite with and/or recognise the concern
- 14 AMs are not yet clear:
  - 6 proposed further testing
  - 8 sent minutes which did not express a clear view

Also:

- Devon and Leeds AMs didn't send minutes (so aren't included in these notes) but did send papers collating various responses
- At least two LMs, independently, sent minutes or comments
- We also received some papers or reflections from individuals

### What do the responses tell us?

Although we've grouped the minutes, few of them fit neatly into one category or another. Others might have allocated some differently. However, we hope this will help MfS

### Some AMs unite with the concern

Ten AMs sent minutes which record they unite with or recognise the concern. Most of their minutes indicate that Friends have spent some time considering the issues. That said, several of these minutes ask for more testing before reaching a clear view.

Some AMs have not adopted a concern with an intention to act; but expect other bodies to undertake any work. (This is similar to minutes in other sections - as noted in section 4.2, another AM wrote that it unites with the concern in spirit, but those



Friends were clear they weren't led to take action.)

One AM made a specific commitment to take action, and another explained what it is already doing:

#### Northamptonshire

*We unite with this concern and have agreed to respond with the following actions. That is to encourage the development with other faith groups, Churches Together and concerned organisations to press for more honest responses at a National level.*

#### Bournemouth Coastal

*We unite with this concern in spirit. ... We have benefitted in the time we have spent considering this concern and agree to uphold it. That is to say we agree to draw it into our corporate worship and individual prayer. ... Fully involved in testing our own Concern, "Our calling to uphold a universal, publicly provided Health Service", we are already 'speaking truth to power' in our own way.*

Four AMs united with or supported the concern, but also noted the need for further testing before taking action.

#### Chilterns

*Although we support the concern, there is much further work to do, including setting out the spiritual basis for the concern, and identifying resources and a clear plan of action.*

#### Cornwall

*We unite with the concern in spirit. ... However, we seek more guidance on specific action and on the use and implications of new means of communications ... we hope for more guidance and clarification from Southern Marches on their concern.*

#### Mid Wales

*We unite with this concern in principle but are unclear about how it might be carried forward at a national level. A constructive statement from Britain Yearly Meeting could be valuable and reinforcing to individual action.*

#### Pendle Hill

*We feel it would be useful to spend more time considering this issue before committing ourselves to action.*

Pendle Hill also – along with three other AMs - specifically asked for a national programme of work:

#### Pendle Hill

*None of this feels new. George Fox and other early Friends were equally concerned about being compromised by the world's values. More recently, we are aware of our minute on integrity sent to Sufferings in February 2017 and our frustration that not more was done to follow this issue up. We would support a new QPSW project on Truth and Integrity in Public Affairs, also working with Friends involved in public life such as Councillors etc, to see how they can be supported.*

### Sheffield and Balby

*We unite with the concern expressed in the minute and feel there is a 'Quaker-shaped gap' in which we could hope to make a distinctive contribution to public debate. We think it would be helpful to re-visit the previous work undertaken by Britain Yearly Meeting on this theme to consider its relevance today and for work to be co-ordinated from the centre so that Friends around the country can be collaboratively involved. We look forward to hearing more on this matter.*

### Thaxted

*We unite with this concern, and have agreed to respond with the following actions*

*We ask Meeting for Sufferings to encourage the setting up the TIPA group again, hopefully in conjunction with other faiths. ...*

*As an Area Meeting we will ask one of our journalist members to speak to us on the subject of 'Truth and integrity in journalism'. We acknowledge that as individuals we should seek to be honest about those areas which may fall short of our testimonies*

Mid Somerset AM wrote *We unite with the concern'*. Its minute didn't elaborate but forwarded the views of one LM, which suggested examining 'facts' as they emerge from media and politicians, seeking to establish sources and claims; via 'a Quaker website operated from Friends House.

Luton & Leighton supported calls from local Friends to unite with the concern without being more specific:

*We have received two responses.... One from [two individuals] and [a minute from a local meeting]. Both responses speak strongly in favour of uniting with Southern Marches in their concern. We endorse the spirit of these responses...*

### **Some AMs do not unite with/recognise a shared concern**

Eight AMs considered the issues and concluded that they didn't recognise a concern, that they didn't unite with it, and/or that there should not be any work taken forward. Some sent a brief minute while others reflected on the issues with interest.

### Brighouse West Yorkshire

*Reservations were expressed about uniting with this concern, but we reaffirm our testimony to truth and recognize that the current climate is unprecedented as there is a dangerous global impact and is some urgency. ... Not clear yet whether there is something particular as Friends we are called to do, however there were some who supported the call for Meeting for Sufferings to start a new programme on Truth, Integrity and Ethics in Public, Corporate and Private Affairs.*

### Cambridgeshire

*This is a very large and important issue, but we do not feel able to take it forward at this time.*

### Central Yorkshire (attached minutes from 3 of 6 LMs, to illustrate lack of unity)

*In our discussion there has been a range of views on the priority this concern should have. We do not feel that it is time to revive the programme on Truth and Integrity in Public Affairs, but feel that Quakers could usefully have a role in such projects as*

*developing educational resources for both adults and school to help people approach news media with discernment. The attached minutes from local meetings reflect the lack of unity on the issue.*

#### East Scotland

*We considered this subject to be wide-ranging and diffuse. We were not comfortable with the term 'post-truth' and noted that truth and integrity does not just relate to our own views. The topic is not a new one ...*

*In response to the questions:*

- 1. We do not feel that we are living in a 'post-truth' world, but we are increasingly concerned about the wide dissemination of misinformation, including by forces actively trying to undermine democracy.*
- 2. We do share in broad terms the concern raised by Southern Marches and are encouraged to be 'patterns and examples'.*
- 3. We would not however support diversion of resources from other Quaker work on this issue, but we encourage our parliamentary engagement officers and committees to work in this field to the extent that they are able.*

Herts & Hitchin – the AM forwarded minutes from two local meetings. It also noted '... we have an ongoing commitment as Quakers to truth and integrity in our own lives.' One LM reflected 'We have not been able to say categorically whether there is less integrity in public life than previously but we are clear that levels of integrity are not where we would like them to be.' The other said it would welcome an initiative within BYM; but felt it might best be served by each department in Friends House considering the issue as part of its everyday remit, rather than resurrecting a separate programme.

#### Lancashire Central & North

*...as an AM we discern that we are not led to pursue this as a Concern at this time.*

#### Manchester and Warrington

*We unite with this concern in spirit, but at this time do not feel led, corporately, to take action.*

#### Pickering and Hull

*We are in sympathy with what we have heard on this matter. We do not recognise it as a Concern as understood by Quakers. However we are very concerned about the difficulty of distinguishing truth in the modern world and about the tendency to act for personal advantage while disregarding others. We affirm our commitment to integrity in our personal lives and believe that this should shine through in our interactions with others. We also feel led to initiate discussions with other churches locally on these issues.*

#### Wirral and Chester

*After this consideration we do not feel led to unite with this concern*

#### **Some AMs feel more testing is needed**

In addition to the four AMs mentioned in section 4.1, six other AMs also asked for, and/or agreed to undertake, further testing:

### Hampshire & Islands

*We feel that there is something that would be worth looking at as a society.*

### Kingston & Wandsworth

*We agree to draw this issue to the attention of our local meetings and encourage any interested friend to write an article for the AM magazine. This may then generate further debate and discernment over a longer time frame.*

### Notts & Derby

*We would like to consider the matter in more depth*

### South East London

*We ask our clerk to get more information about ways we could support Southern Marches AM work.*

### Surrey & Hants Border

*We feel that the "post-truth world" is an important and complicated issue which deserves greater consideration than we had time for at our business meeting on Saturday. We have agreed to organise an AM threshing meeting for this and may possibly have a further response following our next AM business meeting to be held in January 2019.*

### West Scotland - sent two minutes. The first recorded:

*We are not recognising the imperative of a Quaker concern on this matter.*

The second asked:

*Is furthering this concern the best use of our Quaker resources? Is it needed where all our work and witness should express it? We are not fully clear, but wish to support Meeting for Sufferings in its testing of the concern further. It is significant that the concern is emerging from different places, which may be telling us that we have something to do. We should be looking at the consequences of the situation; about how the post-truth culture works to betray the values we live by.*

### **Not all AMs reached a clear conclusion**

Eight AMs sent minutes which reflected consideration, and sometimes asked questions, but did not indicate a clear conclusion.

- East Cheshire
- Mid Thames
- North East Thames
- North Scotland (the AM clerk added: 'Friends were deeply concerned but unsure about corporate response')
- Staffordshire (the AM sent a report from a local Meeting, which concluded 'There may be no specific role for Quakers alone except to talk about truth, to offer times of silence and to speak up when we need to do so.' It also sent the minute of another LM which recorded 'We have not been able to pay attention to this matter at this time, although we do unite with the concern.'
- Sussex West
- Wensleydale and Swaledale

- York (the AM recorded points made during a A thorough and thoughtful discussion. The minute urged BYM to consult with our Quaker UN offices, as well as other religious groups, to see how our witness can be strengthened; an asked whether MFS might, for example, consider making climate change denial the central issue on which we can all unite to fight?)

### **Testing was not always straightforward**

If local and area meetings are to do further work on this, it would be helpful to be aware of some of the difficulties. For example:

#### Bournemouth Coastal

*We have not found the documentation that came with the Concern easy to grasp, and would encourage Meeting for Sufferings and Southern Marches Area Meeting to express the Concern in simpler, more accessible form.*

#### Brighouse West Yorkshire

*It was agreed at the start that the term 'post truth' was not helpful.*

#### Herts & Hitchin

*We have found it difficult to fully grasp the material from Meeting for Sufferings and make a sensible corporate response.*

Juliet Prager  
Deputy Recording Clerk  
15/01/2018

## Appendix 2 – Relevant organisations

This paper has kindly been prepared by Nick Perks, Trust Secretary of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. JRCT is an independent Quaker grant-making trust which supports people who address the root causes of conflict and injustice.  
[www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk)

### **Encouraging Truth and Integrity: what are others doing?**

Truth and integrity are important to all aspects of private and public life, and many civil society groups engage with these issues in different ways. The following examples are grouped under the same headings as those used in the previous paper to Meeting for Sufferings (MfS 2018 04 09). The list is mainly made up of small civil society groups which are likely to welcome the support of individual Quakers, but also includes some statutory, industry and academic groups to help round out the picture.

### **Integrity in the media**

#### ***Voice of the Listener and Viewer***<sup>1</sup> (<http://www.vlv.org.uk/>)

VLV is a small charity that supports plural, high-standards, public service broadcasting, including the independence and integrity of the BBC.

#### ***Full Fact*** (<https://fullfact.org/>)

A charity that provides fact-checking of prominent media stories and government statement, along with prime minister's questions, BBC Question Time etc. Also actively involved in encouraging better use of government statistics, and the development of international fact-checking standards and tools. In autumn 2018, Full Fact published a report on tackling misinformation in an open society:  
<https://fullfact.org/blog/2018/oct/tackling-misinformation-open-society/>

#### ***Stop Funding Hate*** (<http://stopfundinghate.info/>)

Founded to challenge media reporting that encourages hatred, particularly in relation to migration and minorities. Works by mobilising the public to put pressure on major retail brands that pay for advertising. This work is not explicitly about media accuracy, though many alarmist or inflammatory articles are also misleading.

### **Community Journalism (various)**

There is a long history of various forms of community media, and this sector is seeing strong growth at present, led by groups such as the Bristol Cable, The Ferret (in Scotland), the Star and Crescent (Portsmouth) and Bradford Community Radio. These groups (and many more) seek to fill some of the gap left by declining local commercial press, and to provide good standard of local journalism. They are often heavily reliant on volunteers and donations.

#### ***IPSO*** (<https://www.ipso.co.uk/complain/>)

The Independent Press Standards Association, the successor to the Press Complaints Commission, is an industry body that considers complaints against its

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<sup>1</sup> Not to be confused with the National Viewers and Listeners Association, an entirely different group founded by Mary Whitehouse, and now renamed MediaWatch-UK.

members, which include many major UK newspapers. IPSO has its critics (see below) but does provide a route for any member of the public to complain about inaccuracy in an article in the press.

***Impress*** (<https://www.impress.press/>)

Impress is an alternative self-regulator operating in line with the recommendations of Leveson report that followed the phone hacking scandal. Impress' regulated members are largely community media and specialist publishers.

***Hacked Off*** (<https://hackinginquiry.org>)

Formed in the wake of the phone hacking scandal, Hacked Off campaigns for stronger media regulation (being particularly critical of IPSO) and for more rights for victims of the press.

***Reuters Institute*** (<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/>)

There are many academic units that are considering issues of accuracy and misinformation in the media. The Reuters Institute in Oxford is one.

## **Personal integrity of those in power**

***Committee on Standards in Public Life***

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>)

Originally established in the mid-1990s, the Committee has a remit to examine areas of concern about the standards of conduct of public office holders, and to promote the 'Nolan principles' of Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness and Honesty in public office. Its recent work has included considering how to address intimidation in public life, and reviewing MPs outside interests.

***Institute for Government*** (<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/>)

Amongst other activities, IfG offers professional development to government ministers and shadow ministers. This is primarily focused on effectiveness, rather than moral integrity, but does support a constructive and professional approach to public office.

***Full Fact*** (*as above*). Encourages politicians to use accurate information and to reference the claims that they make.

## **Constructive engagement with politicians (various)**

While politicians are rightly open to scrutiny and criticism, it is also important that there are opportunities for constructive dialogue between politicians and members of the public. Groups that foster such engagement include ***Involve*** (<https://www.involve.org.uk/>) a national charity that promotes participatory democracy, ***Hope for the Future*** (<http://www.hfff.org.uk/>) a small Sheffield charity that promotes constructive engagement on climate change, and ***The Politics Project*** (<https://www.thepoliticsproject.org.uk/>) in Manchester and London which facilitates online conversations between politicians and school pupils.

## **Integrity of our political systems**

**Transparency International** (<https://www.transparency.org.uk/>)

An international NGO network, with an active chapter in the UK, promoting integrity and challenging corruption in the private sector, public sector, and the relationship between the two.

**Unlock Democracy** (<https://unlockdemocracy.org/>)

Unlock campaigns for democratic reforms, including a written constitution, reform of party funding rules, and reform of electoral law (to better cover online materials for example). It is the successor body to Charter 88.

**Electoral Reform Society** (<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>)

The ERS is another group campaigning for democratic reform, particularly for proportional voting systems, but also for House of Lords reform, votes at 16 and other issues. There are ERS groups in all four nations of the UK.

**Democracy Club** (<https://democracyclub.org.uk/>)

A small NGO that mobilises thousands of volunteers to provide data about electoral candidates and results, in order to make it more accessible in an open data format, for other groups and websites to use.

**Who Targets Me** (<https://whotargets.me>) An online tool that allows any Facebook user to see who is targeting them with political advertising.

**Democratic Audit** (<http://www.democraticaudit.com/>)

A group based at the LSE that publishes a regular blog and occasional longer reports on the state of UK democracy. There are many other academic units that research and analyse democracy, including for example the Constitution Unit at UCL.

**Electoral Commission** (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>)

This is the statutory body with responsibility for overseeing elections and party finance in the UK. The Commission has itself recently called for various improvements to electoral law <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-views/law-commission-review-of-electoral-law>

January 2019



## Appendix 3 – draft minute

Our minute might commence as follows:

### **MfS 2019/02/xx Post-truth world**

We have returned to our minute 18/04 /09 The post-truth world and Quaker response. The following Area meetings have sent minutes, and we have heard there has been consideration in many local meetings:

Bournemouth Coastal  
Brighouse West Yorkshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Central Yorkshire  
Chilterns  
Cornwall  
East Cheshire  
East Scotland  
Hampshire & Islands  
Hertford & Hitchin  
Kingston & Wandsworth  
Lancashire Central & North  
Luton & Leighton  
Manchester & Warrington  
Mid-Somerset  
Mid-Thames  
Mid-Wales  
North East Thames  
North London  
North Scotland  
Northamptonshire  
Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire  
Pendle Hill  
Pickering & Hull  
Sheffield & Balby  
South East London  
South Wales  
Staffordshire  
Surrey & Hampshire Border  
Sussex East  
Sussex West  
Thaxted  
Wensleydale & Swaledale  
West Scotland  
Wirral & Chester  
York

- a) For information
- b) For approval
- c) To confirm

## **Yearly Meeting**

This item has three parts.

### **a) Yearly Meeting 2019**

We will hear from Clare Scott-Booth, the clerk designate of Yearly Meeting 2019, about the agenda planned and prepared by YM Agenda Committee. Clare will speak to this and there are no papers. When information about Yearly Meeting will be sent to Meetings and available at: [www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/ym)

### **b) Annual Report**

MfS is asked to approve its report to Yearly Meeting 2019. MfS considered the first draft in November last year. The text copied below has been revised as a result of comments received then. *Please send any suggestions for further amendments to reach the clerks before the meeting*, by emailing [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk) or ringing Graham Spackman, 020 7663 1021.

### **c) Yearly Meeting dates**

MfS is asked to confirm dates of Yearly Meetings in 2021 and 2022. This is a MfS responsibility. MfS has previously agreed a pattern for arranging dates and the dates brought to us are based on this pattern; so it is not appropriate at this meeting to suggest alternatives. (Dates of Yearly Meeting 2020 were agreed in February 2018 – minute MfS/18/02/08.)

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## **b) Meeting for Sufferings Annual Report 2018**

*Meeting for Sufferings is the body which is entrusted with the general care of matters affecting the Yearly Meeting in its life and witness. It seeks to discern spiritual values and vision to guide Friends' corporate commitment and actions.*

*from Qf&P 6.28*

Meeting for Sufferings is made up of about 100 or so members, drawn from the wide geographical and demographic spread of all 70 Area Meetings, Young Friends General Meeting, General Meeting for Scotland, and Meeting of Friends in Wales. Representatives of Quaker World Relations Committee, Quaker Life, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations and Central Nominations Committee all attend our meetings. Britain Yearly Meeting trustees, senior staff and the Yearly Meeting clerk are ex officio members, and we regularly receive visitors.

In October we were delighted yet again to welcome 13-18 year olds attending the Young People's Participation Day. They worshipped with us in the Large Meeting House at the start and the close of the day, led us in an ice-breaker exercise and joined our session on Diversity. Their epistle spoke of a sense of being part of the wider all-age Quaker community and of the theme of diversity that permeated their activities during the day. At this meeting we agreed to the suggestion that four Young Adult Quakers could attend MfS in addition to the YFGM representatives

For the membership of Meeting for Sufferings this has been a year of change, as one triennium ends and another begins. Nearly a third of our number have continued, some as representatives instead of alternates, or carried on into a second period of service. 60 are completely new. Our induction meeting in July was followed by a residential meeting in November, where we spent further time in home groups getting to know one another better.

Meeting for Sufferings is a place for worship and for learning; representatives from all over the Yearly Meeting are the means by which information and ideas flow to and from Friends in their local and area meetings. Above all it should be a place of prayerful listening and discernment.

### **Our work in 2018**

In 2018 our **court and prison register** continued to record the witness of friends against arms sales, air pollution, and forced deportation. This is a real link with our history of recording the sufferings of friends in their witness to the truth.

Under the umbrella of **administrative business**, we are continuing to register Quaker recognised bodies, and have accepted Terms of Reference for the new Book of Discipline Committee which we hope will begin work in 2019. The co-clerks of the Revision Committee were appointed in November. We have heard from staff engaged in the work laid upon us by Yearly Meeting in 2017 on the issues of Diversity and Inclusion, from the Engaging Adult Quakers project, and the Vibrancy project which concludes its pilot phase early next year.

### **Reports from Committees**

This year we have experimented with taking all the central committees' reports at one meeting - the residential in November - to offer new representatives and those with more experience the chance to hear about the breadth of BYM's centrally-managed work at one time. We hope this overview will be of benefit in the future when new concerns come to us and we are called upon to discern their place in our witness.

**Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees**, all of whom are members of MfS, report to us at Sufferings after all their meetings and ask for our discernment on matters of policy. We all benefit from this close relationship

**Sustainability** has been on our agenda at three meetings in 2018

- In February we received a report from **BYM Sustainability Group** - our working group on sustainability. It was set up in 2014 to provide “a leadership role, similar to eldership and oversight” in relation to the Yearly Meeting’s Canterbury Commitment to become a low carbon sustainable community. We were impressed by the amount and scope of the work undertaken but challenged to consider “what is the meaning of a Yearly Meeting concern, if we as a Yearly Meeting don’t do it?”
- At the following meeting in April the Friends appointed to **review** the BYM Sustainability Group paid tribute to all that has been achieved since the Canterbury Commitment of 2011. However they also drew attention to structural issues in the group’s relationship with the Centrally-Managed Work (CMW) and we minuted that “the Review Group has found that there were inherent problems here both in terms of ambition and in organisation”. We did not at this time accept the recommendation that the BYMSG should be laid down immediately. Nevertheless we re-affirmed our commitment to sustainability and noted that we need to explore “what it is about our structures that makes it difficult to make the progress which we would like to see.”
- MfS has a responsibility to oversee the progress of its working groups. In accepting the Review Group’s recommendation that our work on sustainability must now be embedded in all parts of the CMW, all parties including MfS will need a greater level of commitment to the work than hitherto. An initial meeting of Central Committee clerks, staff and others took place in July to map progress and begin further exploration of the issues. We expect this to become a regular part of our oversight as we rise to the challenge that living out our witness to sustainability across the YM presents. In light of this positive meeting **MfS agreed in November to lay down the BYMSG**

Other reports in 2018 came from groups reviewing the **Appeals Process** and the **Committee on Clerks**. Each report has challenged us in a different way, and we have much to learn from them all.

- The group looking at our appeals processes recognised that any appeal is in danger of creating ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ and that more attention may need to be given to conflict transformation or conciliation in our processes. The group said: “We therefore recommend that the yearly meeting as a whole should address the challenges arising from conflicts in meetings, and should consider initiating some further work on ways of assisting conflict transformation – including the handling of difficulties affected by lack of familiarisation with Quaker processes and mental health issues - within meetings at all levels.” We referred the matter to Quaker Life.
- In November we received the report of a group set up to review the Committee on Clerks. The recommendations which that group brought to us did not all find favour. In particular we were not willing to transfer the work of Committee on Clerks to Central Nominations Committee until we were sure that CNC has the capacity to carry out this extra work.

## Concerns brought by Area Meetings

In April **Southern Marches** forwarded their minutes about the **erosion of truth in society**, and we sent them to all AM clerks for consideration. We expect to return to the matter in 2019

**Devon AM** wrote to MfS about **BYM trustees' investment policy** in relation to the Israeli occupied territories in Palestine. We sent their minutes to QPSW and QCCIR in 2017-18 for advice. In October we reaffirmed our decision made in 2011 to boycott settlement goods, until such time as the Israeli occupation of Palestine is ended, and whilst understanding that currently BYM has no investments in any company profiting from the occupation of Palestine we "encourage them [trustees] to amend their investment policy to ensure that this remains the case". Trustees have subsequently made this amendment

**Kingston and Wandsworth:** In October we spent time considering how we can better work together to set priorities for the centrally managed work of the Yearly Meeting. This is part of our responsibility in "guiding Friends' corporate commitment" which has been a theme running through the work of Sufferings this year.

Over all the right balance between the spiritual basis of our lives and actions as Quakers – the church – and the governance responsibilities of trustees – the charity – is one that we must continue to strive for. We rely on the power of our gathered meeting for worship for business to guide our discernment.

*The ground of our work lies in our waiting on and listening for the Spirit.....We are a small church with pretensions to change the world. But first we must let God change us – to empower us to be better Friends, and more active in our own work. We should not be creating structures to work for us, but empowering each other to do the work laid on each of us. However we plan...the Spirit is unchanging and will always lead us...All is connected, worship with action, wisdom with love*

*from Qf&P 29.02*

Our draft minute might read:

### **MfS 2019 02 XX Meeting for Sufferings Annual Report**

We have considered the draft Annual Report of our work in 2018. We forward the report to Yearly Meeting.

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## **c) Dates of Yearly Meeting 2021 and 2022**

### **Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee**

#### **Minute 2018/10/15 Dates for Yearly Meeting 2021 and 2022**

Minute S/11/02/8 of Meeting for Sufferings sets out a three yearly cycle for the pattern of dates for Yearly Meetings.

In accordance with this, we propose to Meeting for Sufferings that Yearly Meeting should be held 30 April – 3 May 2021 and 27-30 May 2022, both at Friends House London.

Siobhan Haire  
Clerk

Our draft minute might read:

#### **MfS 2019/02/XX Dates for Yearly Meeting 2021 and 2022**

Minute MfS/11/02/8 determined a three-yearly pattern for the dates of Yearly Meeting. We receive minute YMAC 2018/10/15 proposing that Yearly Meeting should be held 30 April-3 May 2021 and 27-30 May 2022, both at Friends House London. We agree to this.

## Introduction

As usual, the clerk of BYM Trustees will speak to Meeting for Sufferings about Trustees' work. The minutes of their most recent meeting follow. Two of the minutes have been specifically forwarded to MfS – they both respond to minutes sent to Trustees by Meeting for Sufferings.

### a) Investments in Israel/Palestine

BYMT-2018-11-05 Finance and resources reports: (c) Investment policy and BYM investments in Israel/Palestine

Trustees have adopted a new investment policy which takes Meeting for sufferings' guidance into account. The policy can be found on the BYM website:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/our-structures/britain-yearly-meeting-trustees>

### b) Strategic priorities

BYMT-2018-11-15 Strategic priorities

Although this is only coming to Meeting for Sufferings now, it was considered at our meeting in November – see Minute MfS/18/11/13 - so we don't need to create a new minute.

*The clerks suggest the following draft minute:*

#### **MfS 2019 02 XX BYMT Report**

Further to minute MfS/18/10/19 Investments in Israel Palestine we receive minute BYMT-2018-11-05c, confirming that Trustees have adopted a revised investment policy, which takes into account the guidance of Meeting for sufferings. The policy is available on the BYM website.

## Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees

Friday 16 November 2018 at Friends House

### Minutes

**Present:** Alison Breadon, Sarah Donaldson, James Eddington, Nick Eyre, Ingrid Greenhow (Clerk), Caroline Nursey (Assistant Clerk), David Olver, Alastair Reid, Hazel Shellens, Graham Torr, Peter Ullathorne (Treasurer), Frances Voelcker

**Prevented:** Roy Love, Steve Pullan, Chris Willmore

**In attendance:** Helen Drewery, Head of Witness & Worship (except minute BYMT-2018-11-19); Paul Grey, Head of Operations (except minute BYMT-2018-09-19); Sarah Griffith, Project Development Officer (minute BYMT-2018-11-09); Suzanne Ismail, Head of Networking and Engagement (minute BYMT-2018-1109), Quaker

Peace & Social Witness (except BYMT-2018-19); Lisa Kiew, Head of Finance & Resources (except minute BYMT-2018-11-19); Paul Parker, Recording Clerk; Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, (except minute BYMT-2018-11-19), Chloe Scaling, RCO Intern (except minute BYMT-2018-11-19)

**Visitors:** Georgina Bailey, Ellie Harding, Carolyn Hayman, Trustees from 1 January 2019, Linda Batten, Treasurer from 1 January 2019.

Rowena Loverance, Clerk, and Mark Lilley, Assistant Clerk, Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations and Ann Floyd, Clerk of Quaker World Relations Committee (Minutes BYMT-2018-11-11 and 12)

## **BYMT-2018-11-01 Welcome, agenda check, conflicts of interest check, minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7-8 September 2018 have been signed by the Clerk and placed in the minute book.

There are no unrecorded conflicts of interest.

We confirm our agenda.

During our opening worship, we have heard read paragraph 3.10 from *Quaker faith & practice*.

## **BYMT-2018-11-02 Consent agenda**

### **Consent agenda part 1: minutes**

We receive the following minutes:

- Continued minutes (BYMT-2018-11-02a)
- Audit Committee 11 September 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-02b)
- Quaker Life Central Committee 14-16 September 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-02c)
- Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee 21-23 September (BYMT-2018-11-02d)
- Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd 13 September 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-02e)
- Quaker World Relations Committee 7-9 September 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-02f)
- Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations (BYMT-2018-11-02g)
- Vibrancy in Meetings – Minutes from Woodbrooke Trustees and Quaker Life Central Committee (BYMT-2018-11-02h)

### **Consent agenda part 2**

#### **(a) Register of interests check**

The annual update of our conflict of interest forms has been completed.

#### **(b) Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd amended articles**

At their meeting in September 2018, the Board of Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited (FHHL) approved the adoption of new Articles of Association. Paper BYMT-2018-11-02i gives background, including a note of legal advice received, and a copy of the Articles of Association.



BYM Trustees pass the following special resolution:

That the Articles of Association of Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited contained in the document attached to this Resolution are approved and adopted as the new Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of all existing Articles of Association.

**(c) Friends House (London) Hospitality Ltd: trading name**

Further to the annual report of the Hospitality Company (BYMT-2018-06-12a) received at our meeting in 1-3 June 2018 (see minute BYMT-2018-06-12a), we receive paper BYMT-2018-11-02j.

This paper proposes a new trading name for Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited (FHHL) to better reflect the company's vision to be a beacon of spiritual and ethical hospitality, and not to be tied by a building name or location. The name recommended is "Quiet Company", with the domain name wearequiet.org.uk.

We agree to this.

**BYMT-2018-11-03 Recording Clerk's report**

We receive the Recording Clerk's report to Trustees (BYMT-2018-11-03) covering:

- Sustaining church and faith (Visits, Revision of the book of discipline, Yearly Meeting 2019 & 2020)
- Governance (Strategic priorities, Reviews, Church structures including in Scotland and Wales)
- Organisational effectiveness and risk (Safeguarding, Risk of non-compliance)
- External relations (Quaker schools, Lobbying Act/shrinking civil society space, Faith-based charities group, Christian Aid, Churches Together, Gender recognition)
- Recruitment of Head of Witness & Worship
- Deputy Recording Clerk (Impact, Effective management, Communications, Inclusion and Diversity)
- Finance & resources (Data protection and management, IT, Employment, Finance, Procurement, Property management, Fundraising)
- Witness & Worship (Sustainability, All-age community, Peacebuilding, Support for Meetings)
- Operations (Trading and managed services, Accreditation and awards, Bookshop, Swarthmoor Hall, Health and safety, Facilities, Committee services and events, Community)

Some concerns have been raised by staff about BYM's safeguarding policy and practice, and the way in which BYM supports local and area meetings. The concerns do not refer to any specific individual.

Clerks of Trustees, Audit Committee and Quaker Life Central Committee were informed in early October.

Senior staff have initiated an external review. We have heard that this is expected to be completed by the end of January 2019.

We ask Management meeting to continue to make this a priority; to keep us informed and to bring an update to our next meeting.

The latest report on staffing was attached to the report.

We have received Management Meeting minutes for 11 & 25 September, 9 October and 6 & 13 November.

### **BYMT-2018-11-04 Trustees' news**

We receive paper BYMT-2018-11-04 giving news from the trustees on their work as trustees and other Quaker work.

### **BYMT-2018-11-05 Finance and resources reports**

#### **(a) BYMT Finance & Property Committee minutes**

We receive the minutes of BYMT Finance & Property Committee held 25 October 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-05a).

#### **(b) Quarterly finance report**

We receive the Finance Report for the period up to 30 September 2018 (BYMT-2018-11-05b).

We are reassured to know that donations are in line with the pattern in previous years. Legacy income is low.

#### **(c) Investment policy and BYM investments in Israel/Palestine**

We receive Finance & Property Committee meeting minute FP18/69(b) and draft investment policy (BYMT-2018-11-02(l)).

We receive Meeting for Sufferings minute MfS/18/10/19 (BYMT-2018-11-02k) which reaffirms its decision made in 2011 to boycott settlement goods until such time as the Israeli occupation of Palestine is ended. There are currently no investments in any company profiting from the occupation of Palestine; Meeting for Sufferings encourages us to amend our investment policy to ensure that this remains the case.

We adopt the investment policy including this provision.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings and hope this policy might be useful to area meetings interested in adopting a similar approach.

#### **(d) Financial regulations**

We receive Finance & Property committee minute FP18/61 and updated financial regulations (BYMT-2018-11-02m).

We adopt the updated financial regulations.

### **(e) Appointment of auditors**

We receive Finance & Property committee minute FP18/60 (BYMT-2018-11-02n) recommending the appointment of Sayer-Vincent as auditor from January 2019 for five years to audit the 2019 accounts onwards.

We have heard due diligence has been completed. We agree to this appointment.

## **BYMT-2018-11-06 2019 Budget and operational plan**

### **(a) Budget 2019**

We receive the 2019 budget (BYMT2019-11-06a) and note minute F18.63.

We note that this is a steady state budget and forecasts a deficit. We have sufficient reserves to cover the deficit and agree that it is right to invest in our work at this time.

We agree the budget and agree the recommendation to designate an additional £500,000 for legacy projects in 2019.

We approve the outline capital budget and note that all capital projects will be subject to a detail project budget that will be approved by Finance & Property Committee.

### **(b) Operational Plan 2019–2021**

We receive the Operational Plan for 2019–2021 (BYMT-2018-11-06b).

We know that it is a useful tool for staff and for us, particularly as link trustees. Once the strategic priorities are in place it will be clearer to track changes between years.

We agree the operational pan for 2019-2021.

## **BYMT-2018-11-07 Terms of reference**

### **(a) BYMT Employment Committee**

Further to minute BYMT-2018-09-16b we receive BYMT Employment Committee's revised terms of reference (BYMT-2018-11-07a).

We adopt the revised terms of reference subject to amendments to 5.1 noted in this meeting. We thank current committee members for their service and note nominations for the reconstituted committee will be considered at this meeting.

### **(b) BYMT Finance & Property Committee**

Further to minute BYMT-2018-09-16c we receive BYMT Finance & Property Committee's revised terms of reference (BYMT-2018-11-07b).

We adopt the revised terms of reference subject to the amendment to 6.12 agreed in this meeting. We thank current committee members for their service and note nominations for the reconstituted committee will be considered at this meeting.

## **BYMT-2018-11-08 Nominations**

The Nominations Group brings forward the following names for appointment:

### **Audit Committee**

To serve a second term from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020, as the trustee on Audit Committee: Chris Wilmore

### **Employment Committee**

To serve as trustees on the reconstituted Employment Committee:

Sarah Donaldson from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020 (2019 as clerk)

Hazel Shellens from 01-01-19 to 31-12-2019

[To represent the Board of Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020: Val Brittin]

### **Finance and Property Committee**

To serve as trustees on the reconstituted Finance and Property Committee:

Alastair Reid as clerk from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2019

Linda Batten, serving ex-officio as Treasurer from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2019

[One further trustee to be nominated]

To serve as non-trustees:

Randal Barker (NW London AM) from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020

[One further non-trustee to be nominated]

### **Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited**

To serve as a Director of Friends House (London) Hospitality Limited from date of entering membership in 2019 to 31-12-2021

Matthew Baker (Non Trustee) (Attender at Central Bristol LM) (to attend the Hospitality Board as a non-director in the meantime)

### **Senior Staff Grievance and Disciplinary Group**

To serve as a trustee on the Senior Staff Grievance and Disciplinary Group

Graham Torr from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020

### **Legacy Funded Projects Group**

To serve as trustees on the new Legacy Funded Projects Group:

Hazel Shellens from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2019;

Alison Breadon from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2020

[One further trustee to be nominated]

### **Elders**

To serve as Elders for 2019: Nick Eyre and Graham Torr

### **Library Governance Group**

We record the between meetings appointment of James Eddington and Chris Willmore to the Library Governance Group.

### **Nominations Group**

Georgina Bailey as one of the three trustees on the Nominations Group (to join Sarah Donaldson and Alastair Reid) from 1 January 2019.

We agree to these appointments. For positions where nominations are still being sought, between-meetings appointments may be made before we next meet in February 2019.

## **BYMT-2018-11-09 Closing the gap: strengthening the link between BYM and local Quaker communities**

We are joined by Sarah Griffith, Project Development Officer, and Suzanne Ismail, Head of Networking and Engagement.

Further to minute BYMT-2018-02-12, we receive paper BYMT-2018-11-08 outlining staff thinking so far in terms of the purpose, rationale, concept and possible way forward for moving BYM closer to Friends through more regional and/or local ways of working.

Moving BYM closer to Friends in this way could

- Help BYM's work to be better integrated between Quakers locally and nationally, and also within BYM.
- Help BYM provide support services that better reflect the needs of Friends and meetings.
- Allow BYM to make a bigger positive difference in its work to help Quaker communities thrive and grow.

Our thinking is evolving and will continue to do so. At this stage the catalyst is to be ready by June 2019 to take those decisions that will affect the future of the Vibrancy Project.

We ask staff to work up scenarios that will allow us to explore less centralised staffing structures at some point in the future.

We have considered the range of change that could be considered and think that the parameters set out in the paper are the right ones around which to start building scenarios at this stage. We would like the risk of each to be considered and the potential feasibility and effectiveness of each model.

## **BYMT-2018-11-10 Risk management**

### **(a) Risk register**

Further to minute BYMT-2018-06-15, we receive paper BYMT-2018-11-10a which includes the revised Risk Register.

We have discussed the register and suggested some future changes. We adopt the risk register.

### **(b) Risk appetite for compliance**

We receive Quaker Stewardship Committee minute QSC-2018-09-05(b) and related paper on risk appetite for compliance (BYMT-2018-11-10b). The minute and paper note the areas of compliance for area meetings in relation to statutory requirements include safeguarding, data protection, health and safety and employment as well as charity law, finance and property. We note risk to BYM of non-compliance by area meetings is captured in our risk register.

We are grateful to Quaker Stewardship Committee (QSC) for bringing this matter to our attention and found this to be a very helpful paper.

We agree that BYM needs to find a way to ensure that more support is available to area meetings on compliance issues. We recognise that QSC is not set up to do this and does not have the resources to do so.

We agree that further consideration is needed by QSC, Quaker Life Central Committee and us about our risk appetite in relation to area meetings and what further resourcing is needed to help area meetings with compliance. We ask the Recording Clerk to bring a paper to our next meeting proposing how we take this forward.

We send this minute to Quaker Stewardship Committee and Quaker Life Central Committee.

### **BYMT-2018-11-11 Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations: annual report**

We are joined by Rowena Loverance and Mark Lilley, Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) and Ann Floyd, Clerk of Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC).

We receive QCCIR's annual report (BYMT-2018-11-11).

We are pleased to note that QCCIR's legacy funded project Changing face of faith in Britain has generated new material under four main headings: literature review; the spirituality of new Quakers; current levels of local ecumenical and interfaith engagement; links with new religious movements. QCCIR has identified its role in relation to sustainability as sharing Quaker insights; keeping Friends' informed on other church / faith insights; and helping Friends to articulate to themselves and to others the spiritual basis of the commitment.

QCCIR is working specifically in relation to three tenets of *Our Faith in the Future*:

- Enabling Friends and our church/faith partners to learn about each other's understanding/experience of God (Meeting for worship is bedrock of living as a Quaker)
- Enabling Friends to maximize opportunities for collaborative work with other churches/faiths (Quakers work collaboratively)
- Enabling Friends to be confident about representing Quakers among churches and faiths (Quakers are well known and widely understood).

We note that QCCIR is planning to meet in Ireland in 2019, to learn from Irish Friends and to indicate BYM's commitment to continuing ecumenical relationships in Europe.

We encourage QCCIR to consider ways in which they might report on impact.

We note that QCCIR's terms of reference are due for review. We ask our Nominations Group to bring forward names of two trustees to work with staff and the clerk of QCCIR so a review can be implemented in the near future

We thank the clerks of QCCIR for this report and the committee for its work.

We send this minute to Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations.

## **BYMT-2018-11-12 Quaker World Relations Committee**

Rowena Loverance and Mark Lilley, Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) and Ann Floyd, Clerk of Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) remain with us for this item.

We receive QWRC's annual report BYMT-2018-11-12.

We are pleased to hear of QWRC's work to enrich understanding between British Friends and Friends worldwide and of interaction with the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

QWRC invited two international visitors to Yearly Meeting 2018 who both led programmed worship sessions and who visited a number of local meetings across Britain Yearly Meeting during their stay.

We are encouraged to hear of QWRC's plans for 2019 including developing guidance for intervisitation and travelling in the ministry; doing more to encourage Young Adult Friends through engagement in one-off projects and through the Engaging Young Adult Friends and European and Middle East Young Friends, and a review of the process of sending BYM representatives to other EMES Yearly Meetings

QWRC continues to work to the tenets of Our Faith in the Future, including deepening understanding of different forms of worship and engaging more fully across the Yearly Meeting

We note that whole committee, plus its two co-opted members, attended the EMES Section Representatives meeting in Bergen this year.

We note that QWRC's terms of reference are due for review and ask that this be implemented in the near future. This should include a review of the purpose of the QWRC Forum. We ask our Nominations Group to bring forward names of two trustees to work with staff and the clerk of QWRC so a review can be implemented in the near future.

We thank the clerk of QWRC for this report and the committee for its work.

We send this minute to Quaker World Relations Committee.

## **BYMT-2018-11-13 Yearly Meeting: feedback from Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee**

We receive paper BYMT-2018-11-13 from David Olver who attended the meeting of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee (YMAC) on 27 October 2018 on our behalf.

We receive Minute 2018/10/08 of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee, indicating possible topics for the Yearly meeting agenda for 2019.

We are pleased to note that the emerging themes for Yearly Meeting 2019 correspond with our strategic priorities: Sustainability, Diversity and Inclusion, and Simpler Structures. We thank David Olver for his report and for attending this meeting.

### **BYMT-2018-11-14 Trustees' training day 2019**

We receive paper BYMT-2018-11-14 which gives ideas for our training day on 5 April 2019.

We agree to hold a session on governance, and ask the Recording Clerk to organise this.

### **BYMT-2018-11-15 Strategic priorities**

We receive minute MfS/18/10/07 from Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) (BYMT-2018-11-15) on our clerk's report to MfS meeting 6 October.

We have heard that David Olver attended Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee on our behalf to talk about our strategic priorities.

We note that MfS will be returning to this matter next week and look forward to their helpful guidance as to whether the strategic priorities we have identified are the right ones.

We send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

### **BYMT-2018-11-16 Meeting for Sufferings: preparation**

We have discussed our participation in Meeting for Sufferings 23-25 November 2018.

### **BYMT-2018-11-17 Reviewing the meeting**

We have reviewed the meeting.

### **BYMT-2018-11-18 Time with the Recording Clerk**

We have spent time with the Recording Clerk.

### **BYMT-2018-11-19 Time without staff**

We have spent time without staff.

We part, hoping to meet again on Friday 15 to Saturday 16 February at Friends House, if nothing occur to prevent.

Ingrid Greenhow  
Clerk



## **Meeting for Sufferings – representatives and alternates**

### **1 Introduction**

The current system of representatives and alternates began in mid-2012, and is now in its third triennium.

Arrangements Group feel that now is a good time to review the approach.

In Section 5 of this paper, Arrangements Group makes a recommendation, that in future each body represented on MfS could be represented by one nominated appointee, with a visitor attending when the representative is prevented. Meeting for Sufferings is asked whether it can agree to this recommendation; would need more time to consider it; or wishes to undertake a more thorough review.

### **2 What is the system?**

The following bodies nominate one representative and one alternate to MfS:

- 70 Area Meetings
- 4 central and standing committees
- Young Friends General Meeting
- Meeting of Friends in Wales
- General Meeting for Scotland

(*Quaker faith & practice* 7.05).

Section 7.06 of *Quaker faith & practice* explains how this is expected to work. The nominating body is expected to decide what works best, for them.

*Each area meeting may make two nominations from its membership for appointment to Meeting for Sufferings (4.17) as a representative and an alternate.*

*The term 'alternate' as used to describe the additional appointment by each area meeting or other body to Meeting for Sufferings means another Friend who could alternate in attendance with the first-named Friend in ways which suit them and the area meeting, or be available to deputise for the representative if he or she were unable to attend. Each nominating body will decide which option best suits their situation. The area meeting should always have one Friend in attendance. The power of invitation in section 7.05 can also be used if neither named Friend from an area meeting were able to attend.*

*Alternates, as well as the representatives, will receive all the papers and communications relating to Meeting for Sufferings.*

### **3 Why do we need to review?**

There are both benefits and drawbacks to the approach. Arrangements Group have been keeping an eye on this. It has gathered insights in various ways, including their own reflections on each meeting, and feedback from Friends.

During 2014 and 2015 the clerks and other members of Arrangements Group undertook the 'Meeting for Sufferings Roadshow' programme. They expected to talk about representatives and alternates, but almost nobody raised (or wanted to discuss) this. When the issue came up, there were different views: one Friend found the system confusing but another said it was good to hear reports from different voices.

Back in early 2014 representatives and alternates were asked via survey how the system was working, for them.

In 2014, Arrangements Group agreed the system needed to be reviewed but not immediately. At the time, it felt the system was working well enough, and was flexible enough to enable different approaches, without needing a substantial review and recommendations for Yearly Meeting. Before the call was sent for nominations for the current Triennium, Arrangements Group revised the guidance for Area Meetings.

### **4 How is the system working now?**

#### **Insights from the 2014 survey**

The key findings were:

- a) There are benefits and drawbacks to the current approach. These impact on the individual representatives, but also on the Meeting itself.
- b) The main benefits are the ability to share the role and support each other. Friends also appreciated the smaller size of Meeting for Sufferings (before the current structure, about 150 people would have been present at each meeting).
- c) The main drawbacks are that it's difficult for MfS members to get to know each other; lack of continuity; and getting the representative/alternate relationship right.
- d) There were many examples of the representative and alternate knowing each other, working together and supporting each other. When these factors are in place, the system can be adapted to suit the circumstances.
- e) However, in a significant number of Area Meetings the relationship between the representative and alternate was poor; as a result, several alternates felt unhappy and marginalised.
- f) A supportive Area Meeting makes a great difference; but it was rare for Friends in Area Meetings to provide active support – and many didn't understand Meeting for Sufferings or the role of their representatives.

### **For representatives**

The system works in different ways for different people – generally based on personal preferences and arrangements:

- Some attend meetings alternately
- Some representatives attend and alternates only attend when the representative is prevented

The 2014 survey gave a strong message that the system works best if the representative and alternate communicate together. This has been communicated to MfS members in various ways: through the handbook and in the induction for the new triennium (when both representatives and alternates were invited to attend).

### **For the nominating body**

In some instances, AM's follow the guidance in *Quaker faith and practice* (which explains that it's for them to decide what works best) – and nominate Friends accordingly. (For example, 'I'll be the alternate, but only if I don't have to go very often'.)

At least two AM's have (open) support groups for their representatives, enabling any Friend to help with preparation before the meeting.

A minority of AM's struggle to nominate two people. (At the time of YM 2018, when appointments are made, 69 of them had nominated a representative; only 58 had nominated an alternate.)

At least one central committee (Quaker Life Central Committee) has struggled to nominate one representative, finding a team approach better.

When both the rep and the alternate are prevented, a visitor can be sent. This doesn't need to be done formally by approval or minute; so it can happen at late notice. Often, the visitor is a recent member of Sufferings who understands how it works, or a potential member who might be nominated in future. (Not all Friends understand this, and staff frequently remind AM's of it when they send apologies.)

Some AMs find the whole thing confusing. One Friend asked for the alternate to be re-named 'deputy', to make things clearer.

### **For the meeting**

Arrangements Group and Support Group has been aware that the system leads to lack of continuity. There are new faces at every meeting (although this might happen anyway). This makes it harder for members to get to know one another, and to develop a grounded worshipping community. When a matter comes to more than one meeting, individual representatives may not be able to follow progress.

There are frequent changes. It can feel over-complicated or bureaucratic for MfS to have to record these – such as when the alternate becomes the representative or vice-versa.

The clerks have indicated that they're open to having more than one person from each AM attend a meeting, and that representatives can request this – but because of space, this can't happen frequently.

## 5 What now?

Arrangements Group has reflected on this over several years, and has made some small adjustments. It now feels ready to propose a way forward which would be simpler, and less of a burden for AM nominating committees; but also maintain the flexibility we have now.

The recommendation is that **each body should nominate one Friend to represent it on Meeting for Sufferings. If the appointed Friend is prevented, another member of the body may attend on their behalf.**

- a) If the meeting is minded to agree this way forward, MfS could send the proposal to Yearly Meeting for consideration in 2020. In the meantime, Church Government Advisory Group could be asked to draft possible changes to *Quaker faith & practice*.
- b) MfS may be broadly minded to move towards a simpler approach but would like more time to consider it, and consult with AM's. In that case, the matter could come back to MfS later this year.
- c) Or, a more thorough review could be set up, in which case MfS could establish a small review group.

MfS will want to be aware that any changes would need to be agreed by Yearly Meeting in July/August 2020 – ahead of the call for nominations for the next triennium, 2021-24, sent in late 2020. So, MfS will need to reach a conclusion by early 2020.

Juliet Prager  
Deputy Recording Clerk  
14/01/2020

## **Organisations applying to become Quaker Recognised Bodies**

### **Introduction**

This paper gives details of applications for registration as Quaker Recognised Bodies. Staff have looked at the documentation provided by each of the organisations and consider that the criteria for listing them as Quaker recognised bodies have been met.

There is a draft minute at the end of the paper.

### **Background**

In 2015, Meeting for Sufferings agreed a new way for BYM to relate to other Quaker bodies (minute MfS 2015/12/17).

- The guidelines for groups that would like to be a Quaker Recognised Bodies are also on the BYM Website [www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups)
- Paper MfS 2018/07/15 gives a full introduction to Quaker recognised bodies.

A Quaker Recognised Bodies (QRB) is an independent group where concerned Friends explore a common interest, seek affirmation, or carry out witness. It wishes to be recognised as a Quaker body because its Quaker roots are an important part of its identity or constitution.

The process aims to clarify benefits and responsibilities for QRBs and BYM. It's also a way to strengthen links between centrally-managed work and the wide range of exciting Quaker work being done by other groups, helping build a vibrant Society of Friends.

So far, Meeting for Sufferings has registered 55 Quaker recognised bodies.

### **Request for registration**

The following organisations have applied to become Quaker recognised bodies.

One group appeared as a listed informal group in the 2016 Book of Meetings and was omitted from printed papers for Meeting for Sufferings in November 2018:

#### **1. Dabane Support Fund**

One organisation is a new group. It has grown out of The Leaveners, which was listed as an informal group in the 2016 Book of Meetings, but has since been laid down. This group was included in the papers for Meeting for Sufferings in October 2018, but there was not enough time for Quaker recognised bodies to be discussed. Since then, staff changes have led to this application being delayed:

#### **2. Friends in Tune**

One free-standing group which was listed as an informal group in the 2016 Book of Meetings:

#### **3. Quaker Socialist Society**

One external group which did not appear in the 2016 Book of Meetings:

#### **4. John Horniman's Children's Trust**

One free-standing group which did not appear in the 2016 Book of Meetings:

**5. Quakers Uniting in Publications**

One emergent group:

**6. Roots of Resistance**

**Action required**

Meeting for Sufferings is asked to approve these organisations as Quaker recognised bodies.

Chloe Scaling

Recording Clerk's Office Intern

## 1 Dabane Support Fund

**Aims:** To raise funds in UK to support the Dabane Trust Water Workshops operating in Zimbabwe. It has been a concern of Mid-Somerset Area Meeting since 1991.

In Zimbabwe, the Dabane Trust's main function is to provide simple technology to access groundwater in dry river beds for growing vegetables. It attracts international funding. The Trust has changed its focus over the years from finding actual equipment and parts to funding special projects, e.g. funding interns who come from tertiary education for practical experience.

**Governance:** The Dabane Support Fund is a sub-committee of Mid-Somerset AM and all appointments to the committee are made by the AM. Attenders and others with particular knowledge may be appointed subject to AM approval.

**Constitution:** The Dabane Support Fund is part of Mid-Somerset Area Meeting.

**Type of Group:** Linked (to Mid-Somerset AM; which is a charity currently excepted from registering with the Charity Commission)

**Foundation:** 1991

**Publications and activities:** To fund and support charitable work in Zimbabwe. Membership: 5 committee members. 18 Quaker Meetings support the project, and there is a circulation list of about 140 people.

**Finance:** Donations from Quaker meetings, individuals and trusts. Varies year to year £9,000-£11,000 per annum. The annual accounts of the committee form part of the AM accounts and appear as a restricted fund.

Winding up: Will be decided by Mid-Somerset AM.

**Archives:** Part of the records of Mid-Somerset Area Meeting, stored with Somerset Record Office, Taunton

**Current contact details:**

Hazel Hudson, Convenor  
9 Homecanton House, Wincanton, BA9 9JH  
Email: [hazel.e.hudson@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.e.hudson@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01963 31663

**Staff link:** Governance Manager, Neil Jarvis

## 2 Friends in Tune

**Aims:** To encourage singing and song throughout Britain Yearly Meeting as a spiritual practice, means of outreach and deepening the bonding of Friends to build communities. The group is a committed member of Quaker Arts Network.

**Constitution:** Friends in Tune have a formal constitution setting out their aims and objectives, membership, committee, finance and winding up. It is not a registered charity and has no aims to become one.

**Governance:** In accordance with their constitution, 'Friends in Tune' is managed by a committee appointed annually at its public Annual General Meeting; the officers of the committee shall be a clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer and at least three other members. The holding of committee meetings will be in the manner of Friends.

**Type of Group:** Emergent.

**Foundation:** October 2017. The group was initiated at the laying down of 'The Leaveners', the spirit of that organisation and its members is thus continuing in a new form.

**Publications and activities:** Two books of songs; touring workshops and biennial major festival.

**Membership:** Committee of 8 activists reaching into the whole of BYM.

**Finance:** Annual budget of £10,000 with £5,000 in hand. A bank account will be held in the name of 'Friends in Tune' at the Co-operative Bank into which all revenue will be paid. Accounts will be examined in accordance with the constitution.

**Winding up:** In the event of 'Friends in Tune' being laid down, any remaining funds shall be transferred to another organisation with similar aims.

**Current contact details:**

Alec Davison (Treasurer)  
8 Priority Road, Loughton, Essex. IG10 1AF  
Tel: 020-8418-9517  
Email: [alec.davison@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.davison@btinternet.com)

**Staff link:** Head of Ministry and Outreach, Alistair Fuller



### **3 Quaker Socialist Society**

**Aims:** To provide fellowship and forums for Quakers who believe that political affairs are an essential part of our life of faith. To work for social justice and a fair, safe and peaceful world. To develop understandings and practice of democratic socialism. To maintain a witness within the socialist movement, and to make available the insights of socialism for Friends. To work with others for a corporate Social Testimony.

**Governance:** National Committee appointed at AGM.

**Constitution:** None at present – a formal constitution is being worked on.

**Type of Group:** Free-standing

**Foundation:** In its present form 1976

**Publications and activities:** Annual Salter Lecture, AGM, regional meetings with invited speakers, representing QSS at public events. Publications and publicity: regular Newsletter, website and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

**Membership:** 120 members

**Finance:** Investments of £6,500 in co-operative ventures, cash reserves £2,500. Income/expenditure approximately £600 per annum

**Winding up:** No agreed procedure at present

**Archives:** Newsletters retained by Friends House Library

**Current contact details:**

Michael Langford, 63 Apsley Way, Longthorpe, Peterborough, PE3 9NZ

Email: michael\_langford@ntlworld.org.uk

Tel: 01733 262137

**Website:** [www.quakersocialists.uk](http://www.quakersocialists.uk)

**Staff link:** Programme Manager – Economics and Sustainability, Olivia Hanks

## 4 John Horniman's Children's Trust

**Aims:** The objectives of the Trust are to the relief of sickness and the advancement of education of children who are sick, convalescent, or having learning difficulties. It achieves its purposes by offering grant awards to children's charities following the application of a set of criteria. It meets twice a year and has made grant awards of over £1.75m to over 120 children's charities since the new charity emerged in 2004 from the original Quaker charity, which was a Convalescent Home for Children established by John Horniman in 1889. JHCT offers a conference for the charities who receive grant aid, every other year at Woodbrooke. Over 65 delegates attended the 2018 conference titled "In Celebration of Volunteers". Charity Commission Registered Number 222730

**Constitution:** Yes

**Type of Group:** External

**Foundation:** 1889 then 2004

**Publications and activities:** Grant Application Forms. Provision of a Biennial Conference at Woodbrooke for our grant receiving charities. Trustees visit the charities who have received an award and prepare a report which is distributed to the members of JHCT

**Membership:** 9 Quaker trustees and a General Secretary

**Finance:** Investments held by the charity enable annual grants of about £100k to be made.

**Winding up:** Suitable provision is made in the constitution.

**Archives:** Held with the General Secretary

**Current contact details:**

Bal Saini, 176, Stoney Lane, Springfield, Birmingham B12 8AN  
Email: bal.saini1@btinternet.com  
Tel: 0121 439 9114

**Website:** <http://www.hornimanchildrenstrust.org.uk/>

**Staff link:** Grants and Contributions Manager, Vicky Torrance

## 5 Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP)

**Aims:** QUIP is an international network of Quaker booksellers, authors & publishers concerned with the ministry of the written word.

**Governance:** Annual general meeting chooses the officers who then have to report back.

**Constitution:** A constitution exists

**Type of Group:** Free-standing

**Foundation:** 1983

**Publications and activities:** It organises annual conferences, which take place in rotation in the east coast US, UK, west coast US, Midwest US. In years when the annual conference is in the US a day conference is held in the UK. This is usually on the eve of BYM. We also subsidise translations and publications of Quaker works through our charitable arm, The Nancy Sowell Trust.

**Membership:** 80

**Finance:** We have a treasurer in the US and a co-treasurer in the UK as the main group is US based. Approximate annual budget £12,600.

**Winding up:** Any remaining funds must be passed to a non-profit/charitable group with the same objectives/interests.

**Archives:** The archives are held in the Swarthmore College archives in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA.

**Current contact details:**

Jennifer Kavanagh  
44 Langham Street, London W1W 7AU  
Email: jkspirit100@gmail.com  
Tel: 07952 082 031

**Website:** <http://www.quakerquip.com/>

**Staff link:** Head of External Communications, Jane Dawson

## 6 Roots of Resistance

**Aims:** Roots of Resistance is a new grassroots network of Quakers across the UK who are building a creative, vibrant and radical Quaker response to the DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) arms fair.

**Constitution:** Its aims and working pattern are laid out in its mission statement document.

**Governance:** It is organised through a core group, currently of 8 Friends (including a treasurer), which consists of members and attenders of area meetings in London and Yorkshire. Each core group member is also a member of a working group, of which we currently have four (Outreach, Communications, Logistics and Action planning). Working groups consist of members and attenders from various area meetings across England.

Decisions are made in the working groups on running issues e.g. publicity, planning for actions. The core group is responsible for finances and fundraising.

The core group and working groups meet usually once a month virtually, and occasionally in person. Meetings are opened and closed with a period of waiting worship.

**Type of Group:** Emergent

**Foundation:** 2018

**Publications and activities:** It is aiming to bring at least 1000 Quakers to DSEI ('Defence & Security Equipment International' – the London arms fair) in 2019. The aim in building this network is to equip and empower Quakers to take nonviolent action against the arms trade and militarism in the coming years.

The current activities are around mobilising Quakers – raising awareness of DSEI and the arms trade, and publicising opportunities to get involved in campaigning against DSEI in 2019. It is currently seeking 100 area organisers, who will organise Friends in their area meetings to become involved in Roots of Resistance.

It has a website and social media feeds (Twitter and Facebook).

**Membership:** Currently c. 20 people involved in the core and working groups. Currently 40+ Friends have volunteered to be area organisers. It is aiming for 1000+ members towards autumn 2019, and beyond.

**Finance:** It estimates that it will spend c. £10,000 between now and DSEI 2019 on outreach to Quakers across the country, communications, logistics and supporting Friends to come to DSEI. Finances beyond that time-frame will depend on what kind of work the network at that stage discerns.

A bank account is in the process of being opened.

It has had financial support so far from two Quaker trusts. We are applying to more in the coming months.

**Winding up:** The core group would discern in what circumstances the group would be laid down.

**Current contact details:**

Hannah Brock

Email: [hello@rootsofresistance.org.uk](mailto:hello@rootsofresistance.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://rootsofresistance.org.uk/>

**Staff link:** Peace and Disarmament Programme Manager, Daniel Jakopovich

## **Draft minute**

*MfS' minute might read:*

### **MfS 2019/02/XX Quaker Recognised Bodies**

Further to minute MfS/15/12/1, we receive paper MfS 2017/10/14 recommending groups for registration as Quaker Recognised Bodies.

We agree to register the following groups for five years, with registration to be reviewed by February 2024:

#### External

John Horniman's Children's Trust

#### Free-standing

Quaker Socialist Society

Quakers Uniting in Publications

#### Linked

Dabane Support Fund

We agree to register the following groups for two years, with registration to be reviewed by February 2021:

#### Emergent

Friends in Tune

Roots of Resistance

**Meeting for Sufferings 2019 02 02 – AM's & other groups  
minutes received**

**Quakers in the First World War**

- **Lincolnshire AQM** held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- **Hampshire & Islands AM** held on 13 October 2018
- **Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru / Meeting of Friends in Wales** held on 27 October 2018

**North Somerset AM Minute 51/18** from the meeting held on 10 November 2018 regarding the BYM initiative to make our meetings simpler.

## Quakers in the First World War

### Background

Three minutes have been sent to Meeting for Sufferings in response to a matter which was considered by MfS last year.

Last July, MfS received a minute from Mid-Wales AM, regarding a concern that Quakers could do more to recognise the different ways that Friends were involved in WW1. A variety of views were expressed at the time. MfS did not make any particular commitment, and the minute encouraged Friends who were minded to support this initiative to liaise direct with Gethin Evans:

#### ***MfS 2018 07 08 Quakers in First World War***

*We receive minute 27.18 of Mid-Wales AM Meeting held on 19 May 2018 regarding the sacrifice made by many Quakers during the First World War. Gethin Evans, who has spoken to us today, has gathered detailed information about Quakers (members and attenders or those associated with the Society of Friends) who died as a result of their service during the war.*

*The list includes members of the military, as well as members of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC) and conscientious objectors. To date he has information about 264 Friends who died as a result of their experiences in the war, and this number may increase. In due course, the record could be lodged in the Friends House Library.*

*Mid-Wales AM hopes that the Yearly Meeting will recognise the deaths of all these Friends, possibly through the creation of a Book of Remembrance. This would re-affirm our commitment to the truth and to liberty of conscience, as was recognised by London Yearly Meeting a hundred years ago.*

*We have also been reminded of the memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, but we are concerned that formal recognition raises questions and uncertainties about the wide variety of suffering by all those involved in war.*

*We encourage Friends who would like to support and help with the research to be in touch with Gethin directly. We also hope that AMs will consider this further.*

### **Lincolnshire AQM held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

#### **Minute 18.09.68 Meeting for Sufferings Report**

We thank David Howard for his reflections on Meeting for Sufferings held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and Mark Lilley for his report of that same meeting.

#### **a) Book of remembrance**

Mark has told us of a Minute submitted to Sufferings from Mid-Wales Area Meeting concerning World War 1 and 'the unrecognised sacrifice made by many Quakers



during the First World War, whether as combatants or conscientious objectors.’ The suggestion is that the names of the more than 250 Friends who died during World War 1, as combatants, members of the FAU, or as conscientious objectors, be recorded in a book of remembrance.

We support this suggestion. We encourage Friends who would like to support and help with the research to be in touch with Gethin Evans directly. We ask Local Meetings to consider whether they might help by consulting our local records.

We ask the Clerk to send this Minute to the Clerk for Meeting for Sufferings.

## **Hampshire & Islands Area Meeting held 13 October 2018**

### **Minute 10 - Quakers in First World War**

We have considered MfS/18/07/08 Quakers in World War 1 and the creation of a book of remembrance for friends who died in the World War 1.

We feel that the creation of an index of those who died in World War 1 whether through serving in the forces, Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC) or conscientious objectors should be encouraged.

However we do not think that creation of a formal book of remembrance would serve our purposes now.

We recognise that truth is obscured by war and that we would not have a clear picture of the lives lived then.

We will forward this minute to meeting for sufferings.

Eddie Slade  
Clerk Hampshire & Islands Area Meeting

## **Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru / Meeting of Friends in Wales held on 27 October 2018**

### **Minute 2018.47: Gethin Evans**

Gethin Evans has spoken to us today on ‘Ein gwrol ryfelwyr’: Crynwyr yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf / Our Quaker dead: Quakers in the First World War.

He has given us a new view of the position of Quakers in the First World War. Many Quakers joined the military; many died. The declaration by Meeting for Sufferings of the 7th August 1914 shows that there was at least ambiguity about the attitude of Sufferings to the war. Those Quakers who joined the military felt the Inner Light guided them to join, as the conscientious objectors felt equally guided. It was this understanding of the sense of guidance which kept Yearly Meeting from schism. Unity was about liberty of conscience.

After the war, meetings needed to draw together the opposing ideas through an understanding of the need for love, gentleness and tenderness.

In our public records there should be acknowledgement of those Quakers who, in both World War One and World War Two, served within the military establishment, some of whose work also led to developments in medical practice.

We thank Gethin Evans for his work in helping us to a better understanding of our history as Quakers.

We agree to send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

Catherine James  
Acting clerk, Meeting of Friends in Wales

*The clerk suggests the following draft minute:*

**MfS 2019 02 XX Quakers in the First World War**

Further to minute MfS 2018 07 08, we receive minute 18.09.68a of Lincolnshire AQM held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018; minute 10 of Hampshire & Islands AM held on 13 October 2018; and minute 2018.47 of Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru / Meeting of Friends in Wales held on 27 October 2018.

It is good to know that some Area Meetings and Friends in Wales have considered this further. We encourage those with a particular interest to contact Gethin Evans directly.

## North Somerset Area Meeting held 10 November 2018

### Minute 51/18 Simpler Meetings

Aubrey Hill has drawn our attention to the BYM initiative to make our meetings simpler to run. He shared with us an exchange of correspondence with Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk of BYM and his concern for reappraisal of our structures in order to reduce the burden of financial, property and regulatory responsibilities currently faced by Area Meetings.

Small AMs such as ours can be cohesive and mutually supportive, but may lack capacity to deal with the full range of administrative and regulatory roles. Aubrey shared his ideas for an exploration of new structures which could lead possibly to the formation of bodies like Quaker Trusts serving several Area Meetings.

We have shared a range of perspectives on this issue.

We are not ready to make specific proposals but unite with the concern to encourage BYM to look again at our structures and organisation which could reduce the administrative load on Trustees and Area Meetings so as to simplify procedures.

We ask our Clerk of Trustees to engage with the BYM Simpler Meetings initiative and we ask our Acting Clerk to forward this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

Tom Leimdorfer  
Acting Clerk, North Somerset AM

*The clerk suggests the following draft minute:*

### **MfS 2019 02 XX Simpler meetings**

We receive minute 51/8 of North Somerset AM held on 10 November, which considered the BYM initiative to help make our meetings simpler to run. The AM is not ready to make specific proposals but unites with the concern to encourage BYM to look again at our structures and organisation, which could reduce the administrative load on Trustees and Area Meetings.

We recognise there are potential benefits in reviewing, re-shaping and simplifying structures and process in our local and area meetings, and also in our national committees.

We forward this minute to Quaker Life Central Committee, which oversees the 'Simpler Meetings' project.

We also forward this minute to BYM Trustees, encouraging them in relation to the strategic priorities which aim to develop a simple charity supporting a simple church, to reinvigorate Quakerism.

## **Meeting for Sufferings 2019 02 02 – CC's and other bodies minutes received**

**Central Nominations Committee minute 2018/11/35** from the meeting held 17 November 2018 regarding reviewing the committees Terms of Reference.

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### **Central Nominations Committee**

#### **Minute 2018 11 35 Review of Terms of Reference**

We note that there is a requirement for our Terms of Reference to be reviewed in 2019. Our current circumstances would make it difficult to find time to be involved in this. On top of our normal work we have been asked to find 24 names for the Book of Discipline Revision Committee, which is a large and complex piece of work. We have been asked to find 5 names quickly for an Appeal Group. Central Nominations Committee is currently running with only 14 of its potential 17 members and is feeling very fully stretched. The Review of Committee on Clerks has produced a report, which if adopted by YM 2019, would have a major impact on how our Terms of Reference need to be revised.

In these circumstances we ask Meeting for Sufferings to postpone the review of our Terms of Reference until after Yearly Meeting 2019. This will allow us time to complete the initial phase of work on the Book of Discipline Revision Committee and we shall by then know if the recommendations in the review of the committee on clerks have been adopted by Yearly Meeting.

We ask the Recording Clerk to prepare a paper on the review of our terms of reference and the changes that will be required. We will then make arrangements for him to work on this with us at one of our meetings in the autumn of 2019.

We ask our clerks to forward this minute to Meeting for Sufferings and the Recording Clerk.

David Beale  
Gill Reid  
Co-Clerks

*The clerk suggests that a minute might read:*

**MfS 2018 02 XX CNC Review**

We receive Central Nominations Committee's minute 2018 11 35 Review of Terms of Reference.

There was a major review of Central Nominations Committee in 2015 (minute MfS 2015/12/10 refers). When agreeing new terms of reference in December 2015, Meeting for Sufferings asked CNC to provide an update on its new way of working after there had been a year of implementation of their revised terms of reference; this report was received in mid-2017 (minute MfS 2017/06/10). It was also agreed that the terms of reference and way of working would be reviewed in three years' time.

This review is now due. We hope CNC itself will undertake the review, but this can be done when it is ready, bearing in mind that it is dealing with particular pressures at present.