

HARDSHAW AND MANN AREA MEETING MINUTES

Held at via Zoom on Sunday 12th September 2021 at 1.30pm

51/2021 10 Friends present.

At the table is Liese van Alwon AM Clerk.

The Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

52/2021 Representation

The following Friends have been appointed by their Local Meetings to represent them today:

Isle of Man – None appointed

Liverpool – Anna Aiston

St Helens – Mike Bartram

Southport – Richard Melling and Sheila Galligan

Wigan – Alison Parker

Minutes have been received from Southport and Liverpool Local Meetings [*See appendices 2 and 3*].

53/2021 Minutes of our last Area Meeting for Worship for Business

The minutes of our meeting held on 11th July 2021 have been circulated.

54/2021 Nominations The nominations committee provided the following minute from their recent meeting:

“We are concerned that currently we have a number of vacancies to which it is increasingly difficult to appoint Friends. This affects both Area and Local meeting roles.

We do not feel that the way nominations is currently operating is in right ordering. Quaker Faith and Practice (5th edition) paragraph 3.24 c) states “A nominations committee should act when asked to by its meeting or committee and only in exceptional circumstances on its own initiative.”

55/2021 We ask Anna Aiston and Linda Gibbs to review the process by which the Nominations Committee is requested to bring names forward, to consider how Nomination might operate entirely as an area-wide committee, and to bring a proposal to our Area Meeting in October. We ask Friends to forward any suggestions and ideas to Anna and Linda by the end of September.

56/2021 Local Meetings are reminded of AM minute 47.3/2021 and ask the Local Meetings not currently represented on AM Nominations Committee to consider bringing a name or names forward to our October AM.

57/2021 Our Friend Julia Cadman has asked to be released from her role as Area Meeting Co-Clerk. We thank Julia for her support over the past year and release her from the role. We ask our Nominations Committee to continue to discern a name or names to be brought forward for the role of Area Meeting Co-Clerk.

58/2021 We ask the Nominations Committee to bring forward names to our November AM for the following roles: Membership Secretary, Registering Officer and Custodian of Records.

59/2021 Further to the appointment of Gerard Hughes as Quaker Prison Chaplain for Hardshaw and Mann [Minute 47.1/2021] we have been asked by Quaker Life Prisons Chaplains Committee to amend the wording of our minute to provide more specific instructions to Catherine Todd, Quaker Faith Advisor who is required by the prison service to formally endorse the appointment. The following minute is accepted.

60/2021 The Nominations Committee has brought forward the name of Gerard Thomas Hughes to serve as Quaker Prison Chaplain at HMP Wymott. We accept this nomination and appoint Gerard to this role. The AM

Clerk will forward this minute to the Quaker Prison Chaplain Support Officer and write to the Governor and Managing Chaplain at HMP Wymott introducing Gerard.

61/2021 Meeting for Sufferings

We thank our MfS representative Richard Melling for providing the report which is attached to these minutes [Appendix 1].

62/2021 Elders and Pastoral Team

Our Friend Margaret Smith explained how Elders and Pastoral Friends are preparing to work together across all our Local Meetings as an area-wide team. There will be a meeting online next week, and hopefully an in-person meeting on 2nd October.

The team are also hoping to arrange an Area Meeting social event for Members and attenders in December.

63/2021 Area Meeting Finance, Premises and General Purposes Committee

The FPGP committee has met twice since our last Area Meeting in July. The first meeting was to discuss the scope of the work of the committee, its membership and Terms of Reference. The second meeting was to discuss staffing matters. Area Meeting asks the FPGP committee to present the proposed Terms of Reference to our meeting in October for discernment.

64/2021 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2020

The draft report was circulated prior to today's meeting. Clerk of Trustees Linda Gibbs provided an overview of the report and accounts, and of our financial position as of year ending December 2020. A small amendment was requested regarding the furloughing of staff to report that both the Liverpool Meeting House Manager and Southport Meeting House Co-ordinator worked throughout the year and were not furloughed. Subject to this amendment Area Meeting formally approves the report. We thank the Trustees and our Manager for their hard work in producing the report.

Notices:

A Memorial Meeting for Worship for our Friend Jonathan Griffiths will take place at Liverpool Meeting House on Saturday 9th October at 2pm. All are welcome. Please see the email from Jonathan's sister Jo and respond if you plan to attend. Volunteers to help with catering please contact Margaret Smith.

The Meeting ended with a short period of silent worship.

Appendix 1.

Meeting for Sufferings 10 July 2021 (attended for H and M area by Richard Melling)

This meeting marked the end of another triennium of Meetings for Sufferings. The next meeting is scheduled for 2nd October.

Margaret Bryan's follow-up letter, and the whole follow-up package recording the outcomes of the agenda, can as usual be found at:

[mfs-2021-07-follow-up-package \(quaker.org.uk\)](https://www.quaker.org.uk/mfs-2021-07-follow-up-package)

My feeling is that attempting to assist Friends by further summarising the wide-ranging activities and reports of the numerous national and central committees would not be profitable. However, if any anyone has any difficulty accessing the follow-up package for themselves, or would like me to gain further information on their behalf, please do contact me directly on richard.melling@sky.com

On the other hand, I thought perhaps it would be appropriate for me to mention two specific experiences, one of which I found illuminating, and the other very helpful in terms of my day-to-day life.

The illuminating experience was reading the following standing item report, referred to as the "Prison and Court Register" (MfS/21/07/05)

"Ian Bray, a member of Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting, has been acquitted in a landmark verdict at Southwark Crown Court on 23 April. Ian was on trial with others from the 'Shell 7' group, for criminal damage to the Shell HQ building in London's Waterloo in April 2019. This was an Extinction Rebellion (XR) action which could have led to a maximum five-year prison sentence and/or a £10k fine. The jury delivered its not guilty verdict for each defendant, despite the Judge ruling that five of them had no defence under the law. Sue Hampton, a member of Luton & Leighton Area Meeting, was arrested and charged in relation to a Climate Emergency protest in Harpenden, and appeared in court on 28 May. Further to minute MfS/2021/04/04, John Lynes, a member of Sussex East Area Meeting, was found guilty of breaching Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986 in the course of an Extinction Rebellion event in Parliament Square in September 2020 and ordered to pay £180 fine (for breaking the terms of a previous conditional discharge), £500 costs, and £34 victim surcharge. We agree to include this information in the Prison and Court Register. We hold Ian Bray, Sue Hampton and John Lynes in the Light"

The personally helpful experience was seeing the final paragraph of Margaret Bryan's follow up letter, which reads as follows:

Qf&p 19.57 quotes advice from Wiltshire Quarterly Meeting in 1678, extracts of which follow "...we have no obligation upon each other but love, which is the very bond of our society: and therein to serve the Truth and one another; having an eye to it, ready to sacrifice every private interest to that of Truth, and the good of the whole community..." "....and if anything be controverted that it be in coolness of Spirit calmly debated, each offering their reasons and sense, their assent or dissent, and so leave it without striving.... So will things be carried on sweetly as becomes us, to our comfort: and love and unity be increased: and we better serve Truth and our Society"

Richard Melling (Southport Local Meeting): 1st September, 2021

Appendix 2.

Southport Local Meeting for Worship for Business 5/9/21

Present 8 Friends

53/21 Advices and Queries 7/15/17/18/26 have been read since our last LMfWB

54/21 Our MfW have continued during August. Our meetings have been blended meetings in the Meeting House for 45 minutes at 10:30am Sundays.

55/21 Gerard informed the meeting that John O'Hare from Active Audio Visual is to experiment with additional microphones and camera angles. Our friends Richard and Brian agreed to join a meeting with John at that point. Anyone else is welcome. Richard will also speak with John separately and Gerard will coordinate diaries to arrange the meeting and liaise with Michael Parr to confirm the availability of the room.

56/21 The Meeting agreed that the current 45 minute meetings on a Sunday is still acceptable.

57/21 Our Friend Richard represents the Area of Hardshaw & Mann at Meeting for Sufferings. The experience of some friends who have taken part in events organised by Extinction Rebellion are explained in a paper prepared by Richard.

52/21 Gerard reported on the transactions shown on the Bank Statements covering the period from 21st July to 20th August 2021.

Our Friend Elizabeth suggested that as the Soup Kitchen is now acceptably financed, we should use the funds to support Andysmanclub. Gerard explained Andysmanclub and it was agreed that for a period we should donate the monthly £50 to Andysmanclub. To be kept under review.

Signed Clerk

GT Hughes

Appendix 3.

MINUTES OF LIVERPOOL QUAKER MEETING HELD ON 5th September 2021 **At Liverpool Meeting House with video conferencing**

Quaker Faith and Practice 23.10 was read in Meeting for Worship.
Advices and Queries paragraph 14 was read during opening worship.

32/2021 Representatives to Area Meeting.

We thank Aidan Childs and Linda Gibbs and for attending Area Meeting on 11th July 2021.
We appoint our Friends Anna Aiston and Linda Gibbs to attend Area Meeting on 12th September.

33/2021 Collections.

We remind Friends that donations are part of our Quaker life. We ask our treasury team to bring a proposal for cashless mechanism for collections back to November Local Meeting with the hope this can be implemented from January 2022. Notices should continue to share the information on this month's collection.

34/2021 Protest against the October Arms Fair in Liverpool.

Liverpool Local Meeting supports members and attenders joining the demonstration on September 11th against the October Arms Fair being held in Liverpool and welcome the display of the Meeting's banner at the event.

35/2021 A call for climate justice walk 9th October.

We have agreed to welcome and all faith/no faith walk, asking for climate justice, through Liverpool to use the Meeting House as a stop off point/hub between approximately 1-15 and 2-15 before walking to the cathedral. It is supported by Liverpool Diocese, Faith 4change, Together Liverpool, and Christian Aid.

36/2021 Jonathan Griffith's Memorial Meeting

A Memorial Meeting for Jonathan Griffith will be held at 2pm on 9th October.
We ask Friends who are able to help with the catering and other arrangements to contact Margaret Smith.

37/2021 Quaker Week Area Meeting Gathering at Liverpool Meeting House

Elders and the Pastoral team will be organising a social event on 2nd October subject to rooms being available. All Friends are welcome.

38/2021 Banner drop for climate justice

We ask for Friends to support Margaret Smith in producing a banner so that Friends can participate in this ecumenical event.

39/2021 Meetings for Worship at the Meeting House.

Sunday Meeting for Worship resumed at the Meeting House on 8th August. We are grateful for the work our trustees, and our covid coordinator and door openers have put in to make it possible. A safety checklist of precautions has been drawn up while the coronavirus is still in circulation. We will start Thursday Meeting on 9th September.

Liese van Alwon will speak to the Building Manager about the business' plan for installing technology to support blended meetings. The local meeting may need to return to this matter if the business is not installing new technology.

Liese van Alwon will ask the building manager to organise for staff to open the Meeting House on Thursdays between 12-45 and 2-45 when there are no lettings at the Meeting House. Local Meeting will pay for staff time We will consider paid door openers for Sundays at our October meeting.

Gareth Evans and Anna Aiston, co-clerks