

The Association of Talking Friends

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 25th April 2020 via Zoom

01.20 Present

Alan Johnson, Gillian Bryan, Diana Lampen, Sue Thompson, Hilary Johnson, Tim Landsman, David Parlett, Nick Tulley, Joy Croft, Hilary Davies, Clare Hamon, Cathy Khurana, Eleanor Tew, Pam Price, Anne Ullathorne, Antony Barlow.

02.20 Prevented

Gillian Bennett

03.20 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2019

Re: 07.19:

All tasks have been set in train:

- So far no successor to Alan has been found
- CEQ nominations committee has been alerted to search for another trustee
- A report was presented to AM in July 2019 that is filed within routine committee minutes. As a result an AM minute was sent to Meeting for Sufferings in September 2019 expressing disappointment that there had been no progress in Quaker Life's review to make more Quaker material available in alternative formats.
- Eleanor Tew raised the issue that, for many charities trustees and committee members are the same. In the current constitution CEQAM appoints the trustees. The committee members are sought by committee members themselves though there is no nominations process. They are subsequently appointed at the next AGM. We need to look at this issue again since it would be simpler if there were no distinction. We will take this to the next committee meeting.

04.20 Presentation of the Trustees' Annual Report to the Association

We accept the report which is filed. We thank Sue Thompson for preparing this report for us.

05.20 Presentation of the Accounts for 2019

Gillian presented the accounts and balance for 2019 signed by John Bodycote. We lost £435 last year because of costs relating to advertising and work on the website. We thank Gillian and John for their work and ask Gillian to forward the accounts to the Charity Commission.

06.20 Membership of the Committee

We welcome Cathy Khurana whose membership of the committee is confirmed today

07.20 Current state of access to Quaker journals

- Because of Covid19, Friends House has been closed so recordings have not been sent out to subscribers. Alan has tried to progress alternative ways in which subscribers may access them. Joseph Jones, editor of The Friend gave Alan a user-name and password so that those subscribers with internet access may use their computer reading software to keep up-to-date. Although some Friends have been able to use this facility, there have been recurring problems.
- Joy has been in touch with Newspaper Services which provide telephone access to spoken journals and asks that we look at this possibility further. It may be a much easier way to operate as it would obviate the need for memory sticks, though we must think about whether we would want to move into a dual system.

- Alan is now in touch with Jonathan Horniblow the director of a small limited company, to discuss the possibility of setting up a telephone service. Jonathan asks that a reader sends sample files via Dropbox so that he can transfer these on to the new system for trial purposes which can be done fairly speedily. Tim Landsman will forward relevant files to him. We agree to take this forward in this way. If successful we will circulate access details to all subscribers.
- We should also consider the use of Dropbox more widely.

08.20 Any Other Business

Woodbrooke

- Woodbrooke will be asked to ensure that both tutors and course participants are made aware of any appropriate material in the audio-visual section of the Library. This should be noted in publicity for both online and residential courses and in the pre-course documents sent out to participants.
- We also ask that information about Talking Friends is included in all eldership and oversight courses, both online and residential. We will take these issues forward to our next committee meeting.

Online 'chat' session

- Alan, Sue and Nick will liaise to offer subscribers and readers an online 'chat' session. It could be in the form of a discussion of the current week's topic

Hilary Johnson