Minutes from Stevenage Local Meeting

**23.19 Life of our Meeting**

Further to our minute 16.19, we have noted Area Meeting minute 19.33.

We have considered drafts of the following documents, developed from those shared with us by Muswell Hill Friends:

1. Stevenage Resident Quaker volunteer description
2. Stevenage Resident Quaker volunteer agreement
3. Stevenage Resident Quaker occupancy agreement
4. Stevenage Resident Quaker application form.

We approve these papers, with the agreed amendments, and attach the revised copies to these minutes.

We would be grateful for any support and guidance that Area Meeting and AM trustees might offer for this process. Our wardens are planning to move away during the next year, depending upon their circumstances.

We send this minute to Area Meeting.

**24.19 Extinction Rebellion**

We are pleased that a number of local authorities, including Stevenage Borough Council, have declared a climate emergency and are putting in place processes that give priority to reducing carbon emissions and protecting our environment. This comes after an initiative by Swedish schoolgirl, Greta Thunberg, who sparked a global movement when she publicly refused to attend school because she saw no future for her generation. Extinction Rebellion (XR) is the largest grassroots organisation in the UK supporting this movement, and emphasises the need for immediate and effective action from governments and institutions across the world. XR is part of the Rising Up! network, which promotes a fundamental change of our political and economic system to one which maximises well-being and minimises harm. They believe that change needs to be nurtured in a culture of reverence, gratitude and inclusion while the tools of civil disobedience and direct action are used to express our collective power.

We share this analysis and are in unity with these aims. We will support such groups in whatever way we can, including accommodating their meetings in our Meeting House, if required.

We ask Area Meeting to encourage Quaker support locally, and to request Meeting for Sufferings to work with our central bodies to make available without charge meeting space in Friends House for Extinction Rebellion, when necessary, in recognition that this crisis outweighs all other matters.

We send this minute to Area Meeting.

**25.19 Friends House beehives**

Further to our minute 18.19, Steve has obtained from Friends House the financial costs of running their rooftop hives, together with the gift of honey from the hives. Cost per year for the existing two hives is £1233.28 (£616.64 each hive). This pays for 4 months of fortnightly visits and 8 months of weekly visits from the beekeepers.

We thank Friends House Hospitality Company for the honey and ask our Treasurer to send £616.64 for the sponsorship of one hive for the next 12 months. We will review this again in one year’s time.

We send this minute to Area Meeting and ask that they encourage other Meetings to support this project.