

# **EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2018**

## **Call 28/01/2018**

Present: George Thurley, Rose Almond, Lisette Nijboer, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisa Specht, Rose Oliver, Kirsten Stuhr

### **CC 2018/01 Lost Minute**

At Annual Meeting 2017, EMEYF considered holding spring gathering in Russia in 2019 or 2020. Unfortunately the minute recording the Friends to serve on the Planning Committee for Russia was lost. Our memory is imperfect, but we hope the following reflects AM's discernment. We add the following to the AM minutes:

Eduard Shiukashvili, Aleksandr Lipatov and Yulia Dvoretskaya are appointed to serve on Planning Committee for SG Russia. We also appoint Esther Köhring to support the committee until a stable planning group has been formed, together with the Gatherings Coordinator. We hope that other Friends will join PC as part of this process.

The terms of several roleholders come to an end at the close of this Annual meeting. We warmly thank our Friends Renke Meuwese, Evan Welkin, Laurina Pfeiffer and Emmie Touwen for their dedicated service on Communications Committee.

### **CC 2018/02 Released from role**

Following on from minute SG 2017/13, we release Rachael Booth from her role as outgoing UK treasurer. We warmly thank her for her service during her term as UK treasurer and as a trustee.

### **CC Minute 2018/03 Maternity clerk arrangements**

Unfortunately the Friend who was asked to serve as interim clerk subject to consent at AM 2017 isn't able to fill the role, so the question and vacancy remain. We want to support George, especially at Spring gathering, and he would find it helpful to have a co-clerk there. The rest of CC also know about the business which will be discerned at the gathering and will make a special effort to have a clear idea of the agenda in order to unburden George. He feels more comfortable with the possibility of being a single clerk in between meetings, should the Friend not be able to support him after SG (plus follow-up). Kirsten hopes to be able to continue in her role at AM 2018.

Rose O will contact all SG 2018 participants after the registration deadline to see if there's anyone willing to serve as assistant/recording clerk during SG and the follow-up. They could also come to CC's face-to-face meeting in Berlin (9-11/03) or skype with George/CC beforehand if it helps them in their decision and preparation. CC will discern the Friend(s) in question at a CC skype meeting.

### **CC 2018/04 Bursary request no. 1**

We received a bursary request from a young Friend and family from Germany and are happy to support them with 100 Euros in order for them to be able to travel to spring-gathering 2018 in a more ecological manner.

## **Call 25/02/2018**

Present: Lisa Specht, Lisette Nijboer, Silja Pfeiffer, Rose Almond, Kirsten Stuhr, George Thurley

### **CC 2018/05 Bursaries**

We have received a number of requests for bursary support to attend Spring Gathering, and are glad that they want to attend. We have struggled with the criteria for discerning bursaries in general. Our sense is that we wish to ensure we can support as many Friends as possible to attend our gatherings, particularly those who do not have easy access to other sources of support. We ask our gatherings coordinator to follow up with the bursary applicants, and will discern our support as quickly as we can, by a between-meetings process. We intend to come back to the question of criteria for bursary discernment and support at a later meeting.

### **CC 2018/06 Bursary No. 2**

We received the bursary request of a Friend of £130 for sustainable travel costs to SG 2018 and are happy to support her with this amount in order for her to be able to attend the gathering. If her local meeting is able to cover part of the costs, then we will cover the remaining amount.

### **CC Face to face 9-11.03.18 Quakerbüro, Berlin**

#### **CC 2018/07 Opening Minute**

We are gathered in the Quakerbüro in Berlin, happy to meet face to face for the first time since Annual Meeting. Looking back on last year's CC in person minutes, we noticed we could copy and paste from their opening minute: "we are together as CC in this composition for the first time, curious about what the future will bring."

Present are Lisette Nijboer, Kirsten Stuhr, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisa Specht and George Thurley, with Rose Almond on her way. We are grateful to be together, and hope to connect virtually with Rose Oliver who was unfortunately unable to join in person.

#### **CC 2018/08 Annual report 2017 approach**

We heard about the different approaches to the Annual report in recent years. For 2014 and 2015, the secretary compiled an Annual Report with various articles and contributions from the community, as it was felt that the previous annual reports were rather dry and focussed on role-holder reports. For the 2016 AR with the changed secretariat situation, Evan, a then member of CC, volunteered to compile and format the report. This approach was quite time consuming, both in collecting contributions, and putting together the report.

The recent revival of Willy & Penn has also changed the way the community can interact, in a positive way, and is a more accessible format than the Annual Report. This has made us wonder about the added value of the AR.

There is a question of the audience for Willy & Penn and for the Annual Report – if it's just for the EMEYF community, Willy & Penn is probably preferable. If it's just for the charity commission, we could do the minimum. But the Annual Report has been sent to Yearly Meetings an in the past, and so can be an important tool for outreach to the wider Quaker community.

We propose to simplify the AR in future to include the following elements:

- a covering note about EMEYF in general, and roleholders,
- that year's SG epistle,
- a few Willy & Penn articles with a link, and
- that year's accounts.

Since the W&P articles are all from 2018, for the 2017 AR, we ask Lisette to reach out to the EMEYF community to ask for contributions related to their experiences (of EMEYF) in 2017, and to compile this on our behalf. We thank her for offering this service.

### **CC 2018/09 Website way forward**

We've received the suggestion of outsourcing the technical side of the EMEYF website from the server of Jonathan Riddel to a company that would take care of the maintenance while also hosting the W&P website. In previous gatherings we have already discerned and brainstormed on what we would like the content of our website to be, as well as what it should (ideally) enable us to do. At this moment there are still open questions regarding the budget needed, as well as concrete suggestions of companies. We ask George, in conjunction with Esther, to gather the necessary information for the gathered community at SG to make a decision for a sustainable and sensible website solution.

### **CC 2018/10 Bursary request no.3**

We received a bursary request from a young Friend from Ireland and are happy to support them with up to 130€ to participate at Spring Gathering 2018.

### **CC 2018/11 Bursary request no. 4**

We received a bursary request from two Friends to help them travel more sustainably to SG 2018. We are happy to support them with £50 each to facilitate this.

### **CC 2018/12 Bursary request no.5**

We received the bursary request of a Friend to cover her gathering fee for SG 2018 and we are happy to cover the full amount for the time she is with us. If her local meeting is able to cover part of the costs, then we will cover the remaining amount.

### **CC 2018/13 Bursary request no.6**

We received the bursary request of a Friend to cover the costs of attending SG 2018 and are happy to provide a bursary to cover her gathering fee and the costs of the ferry (estimated £200). If her local meeting is able to cover part of the costs, then we will cover the remaining amount.

### **CC 2018/14 Roleholders' expenses policy**

Kirsten explained the history of the roleholder's expenses policy. We see this as tied to the wider question of bursary discernment. We have looked at the previous minutes on this subject, and recognise that a lot of work has gone into this in the past.

Minute SG 2017/07 raises two questions for us – one concerns the wider bursary policy and the other is the proposal for an objective advisor to help with discernment of bursaries for CC members. We feel the need to review and re-establish the bursary policy/ discernment criteria to ensure that CC is clear on the process for making bursary decisions. We ask our co-clerks to find the bursary policy, and review whether it works for our purposes. We will also make use of bursary application forms in the future, to ensure CC has the requisite information to discern. In this review of the wider bursary policy, we intend to add a section on roleholder expenses, outlining the objective advisor proposal.

Our proposal is that CC members who need financial support to attend Spring Gathering should continue to apply for bursaries in the same way as other EMEYFers. We ask

Trustees to take this into account when deciding the budget for 2019.

To help with this, we propose to establish a list of three or four people of whom one or two could join CC meetings as an objective party, as and when required. These people will be chosen on the basis of minute SG2017/07 and could include former CC members, non-CC trustees, and other members of the EMEYF or wider Quaker community. When CC knows it will have to discern a bursary for one of its own members, CC should contact the people on this list, to find at least one to join the meeting and CC's discernment. This will help alleviate discomfort within CC, providing the necessary oversight to ensure CC remains – and feels – accountable to the EMEYF community. We propose to minute this list of potential objective advisers - and revise it, if necessary – once a year at AM.

We will bring this proposal to SG 2018.

#### **CC 2018/15 – Maternity clerk arrangement**

Following CC Minute 2018/03, we have received an offer from Annie Womack to serve as assistant clerk for SG 2018, including follow-up. We gratefully accept this offer, and are glad that Annie was able to join us today (via skype) to plan the business agenda for Spring Gathering. Kirsten hopes to return in time for Annual Meeting 2018.

#### **CC 2018/16 – New EU Data Policy and how it applies for EMEYF**

We thank Lisette for researching the new policy and giving us an update on the important points concerning EMEYF. We talked about ways to better implement some of the points in order to stay on the safe side. Following the ChC 2018/04 we ask Lisette to write up a data policy by mid-May on how we as EMEYF deal with the data from our community.

#### **Call 29/04/2018**

Present: George Thurley, Rose Almond, Lisette Nijboer, Lisa Specht

#### **CC 2018/ 17 Bursary request no.7**

We received the bursary request of a Friend, new to EMEYF, to cover the costs of attending SG 2018 and are happy to provide a bursary to cover her gathering fee and the costs of travel (which we estimate at, but don't limit to, £300).

#### **CC 2018/18 - Spring gathering follow up**

We have begun our meeting with a period of worship sharing on our experiences of Spring Gathering. We thank the planning committee for their work, and for helping to shape an enjoyable and interesting gathering. We also thank Annie Womack for her invaluable service as co-clerk during, and a little after, the gathering.

#### **CC 2018/19 - Safeguarding policy**

We note Trustees' minute (ChC 2018/05) and appreciate their work in advancing this. We ask our Elders, with support from Trustees, to take the first steps in making contact with other comparable Quaker organisations, and bring this back to CC whenever needed.

#### **CC 2018/20 - Willy and Penn**

Further to minute SG 2018/08, we have received a request from Emmie Touwen, W&P editor, to support W&P moving to "Wordpress personal", where it will be ad-free and have its own url, [www.willyandpenn.com](http://www.willyandpenn.com). We agree to cover the costs of this (€48 a year) as part of the LAP, for the next year.

## **CC 2018/21 - Sustainable travel bursaries**

2018 is a test year for seeing how to go forward with our communal commitment to sustainability, following discussion at AM 2017 (AM2017/12). The SG 2017 financial sustainability commitment (approx €150) was used to support EMEYFers to travel to SG 2018 more sustainably, but the requests we received for this purpose in fact exceeded the SG 2017 contribution. We recognise the lack of clarity around the use of this money, and wish to make it fully transparent. To that end, we ask the treasurer and trustees to propose a clearly defined funding pot for sustainable travel as part of the 2019 budget (bearing in mind that SG 2019 will take place in Russia, and therefore there may be even more demand for bursary support for sustainable travel). We also ask SG PC to facilitate and encourage Friends to travel to Russia sustainably as part of their planning.

## **CC 2018/22 - Donation to Quäkerbüro**

We agree to make a donation of €50 to the Quäkerbüro in Berlin, as a thanks for hosting us for our enjoyable pre-SG face-to-face meeting.

## **CC 2018/23 - Donation to QCEA**

We agree to make a donation of €100 to QCEA, as a thanks for hosting us for our large and vibrant AM last year.

## **Call 31/05/2018**

Present: Rose Almond, Rose Oliver, Lisa Specht, George Thurley

## **CC 2018/24 LAP team for EMES AM**

We have heard from our LAP coordinator of the applications from EMEYFers to help prepare, present and facilitate our living archives at the EMES AM in June (following minute SG 2018/10), and are pleased to support Lynda Berry, Liam Brighton and Emmie Touwen, with €1000 to be distributed between them as needed. We look forward to the results.

## **Call 16/09/2018**

Present: Silja Pfeiffer, Rose Almond, George Thurley

## **CC 2018/25 Adoption of data policy**

We have received and adopted the final version of the EMEYF Data Policy (following CC 2018/16 and SG 2018/06), in order to ensure EMEYF's compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation. We thank our fundraising treasurer for her work in putting it together. The policy can be found on our website.

## **Call 16/10/2018**

Present: Silja Pfeiffer, Rose Almond, George Thurley, Rose Oliver, Lisa Specht, Lisette Nijboer, Kirsten Stuhr

## **CC 2018/26 EMES Peace and Service Consultation**

We were asked by EMES if we would like to send a representative from EMEYF to the EMES Peace and service Consultation from 16 to 18 November 2018. Due to the short time in between AM and the consultation, instead of nominating a representative, we will send an email out with the offer to the EMEYF community asking if anyone is willing and able to represent us there.

## **Call 11/12/2018**

Present: George Thurley, Rose Almond, Kirsten Stuhr, Lisette Nijboer, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisa

Specht

**CC 2018/27 AM follow-up**

We have spent some time at the beginning of our meeting reflecting on our Annual Meeting held last month. It was a lovely weekend with old f/Friends and new, with time to go beyond the everyday, to feel supported and to have the space to enjoy "spontaneous sessions". We were graciously hosted at Quäkerhaus, Bad Pyrmont, and agree to make a donation to them of 100 euros.

**CC 2018/28 Update on EMES Young Adult Friends Development Fund (YAFDF) proposal (recording minute)**

Since our discussion at AM (minute AM 2018/18), the application from EMES for funding from the YAFDF was submitted to the FWCC World Office and a few changes have been made, mainly concerning the events for the travelling friends and the kinds of support they might receive on their journey. We will remain in contact with EMES regarding EMEYF involvement, i.e. with an EMEYFer potentially travelling with the visiting Friends, and look forward to seeing how this idea will unfold.