



NORTHERN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity Number 226104



Minutes of the NUA Committee Meeting held at Newcastle Unitarian Church on 13th February 2018 at 7.00pm

1. Committee Members present:

Louise Reeve, Mike Tomlin, Margaret Robinson, Hazel Warhurst, David Warhurst, Brian Robson.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Louise van der Hoeven and Peter Whitham

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th June 2017 at Newcastle Unitarian Church:

Chairman Mike Tomlin signed the Minutes after the committee members had agreed they were a true record.

4. Matters Arising:

North-East Lancs. Unitarian Mission (NELUM District) had emailed their thanks for our comments (written by David Warhurst) on their letter. We had been the only district to respond and we have heard nothing since. Without support from other Districts it is unlikely that NELUM's concerns will be taken any further.

5. District Aims and Objectives:

District Website:

Louise Reeve had previously shared a list of possible sections to include in a website. She was prepared to set it up if other committee members wrote or suggested sources for the content. Once the website was up and running at least one person would be needed to help Louise as Editor. There would be scope for other people to have limited access to update certain sections. Committee members signed up to write or provide some of the content and send their contributions to Louise as soon as possible. The aim is to have five sections ready by the June meeting. Louise was thanked for taking this on in addition to new responsibilities at CDU.

Committee Job Descriptions:

The duties of a Secretary were prepared by Margaret Robinson and these were agreed with a few minor alterations. Margaret will update her

contribution and email it round the committee. Mike Tomlin had brought the role and duties of the President. They were clear and concise and appropriate for a small organisation like the NUA. Louise shared the Church Representative notes and will write the role of the Ordinary Member and circulate it. David Warhurst is working on the duties of the District Treasurer.

Final approval of the committee roles will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

6. Reports

a. Finance Report:

The Treasurer reported a healthy financial situation as the year end approaches. There had been a slight increase in our income from the B&FUA and Charifund. He was pleased to see that more people had applied for grants towards attendance at conferences and courses. There was still money unspent in the budget allocation for this purpose. Louise asked if this could be used to encourage new church members at Newcastle to attend events organised at the Nightingale Centre, or to enrol for the Worship Studies course. The treasurer confirmed that they would be eligible for grants, as agreed previously by the committee.

In the absence of any unexpected expenditure David said that we are likely to end the year slightly better than budgeted, with the Association's finances continuing to be soundly based.

Mike Tomlin praised David Warhurst's competence in looking after the financial affairs of the District.

The Finance report was accepted.

b. Church Reports:

- 1. Stockton** – a written report was received and is filed with the minutes.

It was noted that the Stockton church rental income is steadily increasing with groups using it on a regular basis and a new enquiry for the autumn.

- 2. Newcastle** – A written report was received and is held with the minutes.

There was some discussion about progress towards the sale of the building to the Tyneside Group and the options when the congregation cannot use the building for worship. Two places had been identified for use in locations not far from the church. The Martin Luther Kirche in Shieldfield holds its own services in the afternoon and is one possibility. There have been a number of

new people attending Newcastle's meetings for worship and there is some interest in becoming involved with PRIDE.

3. Religious Education Co-ordinator

Margaret Robinson reported that there had been nine participants in first LEAP course weekend (Leading, Enabling, and Affirming People) which was a positive beginning.

7. GA Meetings 2018-02-19

Louise Reeve would represent the District as our voting Delegate. As motions to be proposed at the meetings have not yet been published, and there would not be another committee meeting before the GA, it was agreed that committee members would consult via email, when the motions are notified, to give Louise guidance about how to vote on our behalf.

David Warhurst gave out copies of the motion which will be proposed by *The Foy Society* on the subject of *Equality*, along with the background paper. Margaret Robinson mentioned that the Unitarian Women's Group (UWG) would be proposing a motion on *Austerity*.

The NUA District would be well represented at the GA Meetings this year. Diana Bebbly was going as Newcastle Church delegate, Ben MacLeod as a visitor, Louise Reeve as NUA Delegate, David Warhurst as Stockton Delegate, Mike Tomlin as an Honorary Member and Jane Tomlin, Hazel Warhurst and Margaret Robinson as Associate Members.

8. Key Messages from the GA Executive Committee:

No Key messages had been received recently.

9. New Link Person for our District on the GA Executive Committee

Rob Whiteman was our new Link person on the EC. He had sent one email in July 2017 introducing himself.

10. NUA Annual General Meeting

The 2018 AGM would be held at Newcastle Church subject to the building still being available for us to use. If not, an alternative location will necessary. Joan Cook, GA President nominee, had been invited to attend and possible dates were being looked at in conjunction with Joan Large at Newcastle. The dates would be circulated round the committee members so that everyone could check their availability. Joan Cook had agreed to lead worship at both churches on the Sunday of the NUA weekend.

11. Correspondence:

There was none.

12. Any Other Business:

The annual visit to Flowergate Chapel, Whitby, is now well established as an NUA District event and will take place this year on 15th July. The recent launching of ***The Friends of Flowergate Chapel*** to secure its future was noted. It was agreed that the NUA should subscribe as a supporting organisation and this will be included when we consider our annual subscriptions at the June committee meeting.

Louise Reeve reported enthusiastically on her experience of spending a week with the Findhorn Foundation. There were seventeen Unitarians taking part and another week is to be planned in the future. Louise thanked the NUA for the financial assistance which had enabled her to take part. She will be leading the service at Newcastle on 29th April, about her experiences at Findhorn. Her offer to do the same at Stockton was gratefully accepted – date to be arranged. Louise gave both churches a copy of the book "*The Spirit of Findhorn*". There will be a presentation at the GA Meetings about *The Findhorn Experience*.

There was a little confusion about which two of the Newcastle NUA committee members had been appointed by Newcastle as church representatives as opposed to Ordinary Members. This should normally be decided at the relevant church AGM. Louise Reeve undertook to clarify the position in time for the June meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting would be held at 7.00pm on 11th June 2018 at Stockton.

Signed as a correct record:

..... **(Chair)**

..... **(Date)**