

**QUAKER SOUTH ASIA INTEREST GROUP (QSAIG)**  
**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**26<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**Present:** Anne Smith Treasurer/Membership Secretary), Martin and Liz Schweiger, Stephen Petter, Stuart Morton (Convenor), John Gibbs, Sheila Ragg (part of the day), Gerald Conyngham (QPSW staff), Martin Williams (QPSW staff)

**Prevented:** Abu Siddique (Bachchu), Ruth Baker, Cora and Rob Gallagher, Manan Ganguli, N. Ramamurthy (Ram), Stephanie Ramamurthy, Penny Robbins, Pat Saunders, John and Sue Smithson, Margaret Johnson, Maggie Waterworth.

**Minutes of last Annual Meeting were agreed.** Thanks were expressed to Stephen Petter for his work.

**2013/01 The following minute to set up a new bank account with the Ecology Building Society was confirmed and included in this set of minutes.** It was agreed that bank signatories would be Anne Smith and Stuart Morton. No further signatories are being sought at this time.

**2013/02 Convenor's report – Stuart Morton**

**The following points were made:** Chandu Christian had resigned as Convenor several months ago due to ill health. We thank Chandu for his kindness of spirit and for the service he gave.

A Newsletter was published in May 2013 in time for the QSAIG table that was staffed by Martin and Liz Schweiger at Britain Yearly Meeting. Martin has placed it on the QSAIG website. An October 2013 draft newsletter has been shared through Email and printed copies of the articles are available for today's meeting. The Newsletter will be finalised before too long. We agreed that personal news would need to be removed from the newsletter version on the QSAIG website. When requested, some continuing support has been given to QPSW South Asia work partly in my capacity as a QPSW former staff member. In addition to this, I have remained in contact with Ekta Parishad in India, and with some other people in the region who had been dedicated to the Quaker approach to peace and justice over a number of years.

Liaised with the Treasurer, Anne Smith, to set up the new bank account and to arrange today's gathering.

**2013/03 Treasurer/Membership Secretary's report – Anne Smith**

The Financial statement for the period 20 October 2012 - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013 was presented by our Treasurer. This was discussed and agreed. It was noted that QSAIG is not a registered charity. We thanked Anne Smith for her work as Treasurer.

**2013/04 Agreed future work Britain Yearly Meeting** at Bath (August 2-9, 2014): We accept the offer of Liz and Martin Schweiger to staff a QSAIG stall. We agreed that we would produce a Newsletter in time for BYM. We will also explore the viability of a QSAIG Special Interest Group at BYM.

**QSAIG website: website links** to projects in the region e.g. "Peace Direct", which has good Quaker links, has many projects in the region and we encourage Martin to identify suitable links to be placed on our QSAIG website. We also want to explore whether

QPSW work in the region might be linked in an easily accessible way to the QSAIG website?

**Links to the region:** If QPSW South Asia regional work is discontinued in the near future we have explored, with Gerald Conyngham, ways in which links might be preserved through QSAIG. The following offers of linkage were gratefully accepted: Gerald Conyngham – with Ekta Parishad Martin and Liz Schweiger- with GUP, Bangladesh Stuart Morton- with Subhash Kattel and possibly others in Nepal Stuart Morton to consider whether he can keep links in some way with Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

Martin Schweiger to approach Erica Cadbury and John McConnell and ask for their willingness to be a QSAIG link to Burma/Myanmar.

**Support of QPSW work:** We need to do what we can to maintain support for QPSW work in the region. One example of this would be to invite those participating in the work of the Naga Conciliation Group to speak at Area or Local Meetings. (Martin Williams would be able to loan his power point projection on the Naga work to any other speaker from the NCG)

#### **2013/05 Appointment of Officers**

We appointed Stuart Morton as Convenor, and Communications Officer, Anne Smith as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Martin Schweiger as QSAIG Website Manager.

#### **2013/06 Our Next QSAIG meeting in 2014**

**Date:** Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in the North of England. Martin Schweiger to approach the Bradford Peace Museum as a possible venue.

**Speaker(s):** John McConnell and/or Erica Cadbury to be invited to speak about their work in Burma. **If they are willing to speak but can do so only a week later then we are willing to re-schedule our AGM date.**

**Our Meeting closed with a period of worship and thankfulness.**