

Friends Southern Summer Events Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 13 November 2021

Held online

Minutes

Present

Oliver Waterhouse (clerk), David Holtam (assistant clerk), Margaret Lee, James Barnard, Kit King, Marisa Johnson, Rob Johnson, Olivia Sewell Risley, Graham Torr, Joe Bowness, Ruth Jesson-Smith, Michael Wood, Eduin Boater-Latimer, George Spencer, Paul Ingram, Matt Baker, Phil Wood, Eleanor Brooks, James Barnard, Nat Solon, Tavi Austin, Anna Trethewey, Queenie King, Sammy Gilbert

Apologies

Emily Collins, Anya Nanning-Ramamurthy

FSSEAGM21-01 Opening worship

We have opened our meeting with a period of silent worship during which was read verse 3.02 from Quaker faith and practice.

FSSEAGM21-02 Agenda check

We have agreed our agenda. We note the apologies that have been given in advance and the names of those people present.

FSSEAGM21-03 Minutes of AGM 2020

We have received the minutes of the 2020 FSSE Annual General Meeting. Our clerk has read through the headings to remind us of the meeting that took place.

We accept the minutes of last year's AGM.

FSSEAGM21-04 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from 2020.

FSSEAGM21-05 Trustees report

We thank trustees for the work they have done throughout 2021. Having supported the brave decision to run events in person in 2021 the trustee body rose to the challenge and changed the way that it worked in the lead up to the events. Trustees' regular meetings with coordinators, bookings secretaries and publicity team helped their supporting role feel much closer to the teams delivering the events.

We have heard thanks from the meeting floor for trustees being willing to take on the responsibility of running the events in 2021. This enabled the event coordinators to feel supported in running safe events that have made a huge difference to both young people and FSSE volunteers.

Our clerk to trustees has shared a report which will form the basis of our annual submission to the Charities Commission.

We are grateful to the whole trustee body for the work that they do on FSSE's behalf.

FSSEAGM21-06 Treasurer's report

We have received a report and FSSE's draft annual accounts presented by Graham Torr our treasurer. We have had the opportunity to ask Graham questions.

We heard about the last 6 weeks being an intense period for bookings and financial activity.

FSSE made a small surplus in 2021 which was surprising. Much of the cost saving came through use of Zoom and having very small travel expenses for planning and management purposes. Some of the cost savings are scalable and other are not. This year we saved in areas, such as the trips to Oxford, which we do not think are savings we would like to make long-term. We would like to find the right balance of in-person and virtual planning as we have heard that only planning virtually is not entirely effective.

Expenditure and income were both around £37k. We also received some generous donations that have helped our finances this year. One large donation in particular came from an individual Friend who heard of FSSE's work from someone in their local meeting.

We thank and Graham Torr for his work as treasurer.

FSSEAGM21-07 Junior Gathering 2021

We have welcomed Queenie King and George Spencer and thank them for reading the epistle from Junior Gathering. We have had the opportunity to ask questions about Junior Gathering and have heard about an event that began cautiously but gained confidence as the week went on.

Junior Gathering was a smaller event that it has been in previous years but had all the elements that make Quaker events for young people so special. A theme of *Caring for ourselves and others* was explored throughout the week with speakers and facilitators from both inside and outside the staff team. Topics such as mental health, which is now familiar to many young people, allowed personal and frank sharing. A highlight was one of the staff team talking of their work in the NHS and the effect that Covid had on her personally and the workplace.

Base Groups helped to add shape to the event and were places that young people were able to discuss things in more depth with a closer group of

peers. Well-loved activities such as the disco, lifelines and daily activities and free time helped to build community.

The day began and ended with Quaker worship and an epilogue which was appreciated by all. The semi-programmed nature of epilogue helps some of the more fidgety young people settle to worship and concentration aids are available to anyone who needs them at any time of worship.

We have heard that FSSE might have a role in helping Quakers talk to young people in their community about Junior Gathering. This is one of the best ways to pass on the excitement to young Quakers. We will explore further how we can help make financial support for our events more accessible to those Friends who need it.

We are hugely grateful to the staff team of volunteers who helped make this event happen in really challenging circumstances. The planning team of Olivia, Phil and Eduin and the Coordinators Tavi and Matt for all their efforts and care to enable such a wonderful event.

FSSEAGM21-08 Senior Conference 2021

We thank Sammy Gilbert and Nat Solon for joining us today and sharing the epistle from Senior Conference 2021. We have heard about an event where the relief of being able to be together in person was evident.

The theme for the week was *Global Quaker living*. Speakers from outside the event staff team joined by Zoom and talked about their experiences of Quakerism in places such as Ramallah in the West Bank and Friends House, Moscow. The arrangements committee and staff volunteers used technology cleverly to integrate those who could not be in-person into the discussions and debates that helped engage everyone in the theme.

Being a Quaker event, each day opened and closed with worship which is welcomed by the participants and 22+ team alike. Other activities and social events made up the rest of the structure of the event throughout the week and favourites that could not happen this time, such as the trip to Oxford, were replaced with cleverly thought out alternatives. Moxford became the destination of choice with a variety of places to 'purchase' costumes for the themed dinner and disco.

The 22+ team and arrangements committee have worked hard to make this event happen and we recognise the work that has gone into it. Emily and Ruth as event co-ordinators have held the responsibility for the event. We are unreservedly grateful to all these people for helping FSSE to hold SC in person in 2021.

FSSEAGM21-09 Matters referred by Management Committee

Nominations brought forward from Management Committee

We receive the following names from FSSE Management Committee which met on Tuesday, 9 November 2021.

Role	Outgoing	Incoming	Status	Term	Start	End
FSSE Clerk	Oliver Waterhouse	David Holtam	Nomination	3	AGM 2021	AGM 2024
FSSE Clerk (assistant)	David Holtam					
FSSE Trustee	Anna Trethewey	Kit King	Nomination	2	AGM 2021	AGM 2024
FSSE Trustee	Michael Wood					
FSSE Trustee	Candia Crosfield					
FSSE Trustee (Convener)	James Barnard	James Barnard	Renomination	1	AGM 2021	AGM 2022
JG Bookings secretary	Oliver Waterhouse	Oliver Waterhouse	Nomination	3	AGM 2021	AGM 2024
JG Coordinator #2	Tavi Austin	Olivia Sewell-Risley	Nomination	3	AGM 2021	AGM 2024
JG Planning Coordinator #1	Olivia Sewell-Risley	Lou Whalley	Nomination	1	AGM 2021	AGM 2022
JG Planning Coordinator #2	Philip Wood	Philip Wood	Renomination	1	AGM 2021	AGM 2022
JG Planning Coordinator #3	Eduin Boater-Latimer	Eduin Boater-Latimer	Renomination	1	AGM 2021	AGM 2022
Publicity officer	Peyton Rawlinson					
SC Bookings secretary	Rob Johnson	Rob Johnson	Nomination	3	AGM 2020	AGM 2023
SC Coordinator #1	Emily Collins	Emily Collins	Nomination	3	AGM 2020	AGM 2023
SC Coordinator #2	Ruth Jesson-Smith	Joe Bowness	Nomination	1	AGM 2021	AGM 2022

We thank all those who have come to the end of their service for the hard work they have given to FSSE to help make the events happen over the time they have been in service.

We are thankful to all those Friends who are coming into roles for the first time and welcome them to FSSE and its work.

There are some roles that we have as yet not filled and we ask our clerk to work with trustees to nominate people to fill those roles. AGM gives permission for trustees to make appointments between meetings that will be recorded in the minutes at AGM 2022.

FSSEAGM21-10 Date and venue for FSSE AGM 2022

We hope to meet for the 2022 FSSE AGM on Saturday, 12 November. The venue will be confirmed in due course.

We ask our clerk to make the arrangements on our behalf.

Closing worship

Signed

Oliver Waterhouse.

Oliver Waterhouse

Clerk