

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Talking
Friends,
14th May 2011, Priory Rooms, Birmingham

01.11 **Present:** Alan Johnson, Gillian Bryan, Stella Roberts, Anne Fletcher, Joy Aldworth, Anne Austin, Helen Steel, Carolyn Appleby, Mary Wong, Gill Coffin, Joe Coffin.

02.11 **Prevented:** John Lampen, Hilary Davies, Linda Pegler, and William Waddilove.

03.11 There are no **matters arising** from the Minutes of the AGM held 25 – 04 – 10.

04.11 **Trustees Annual Report for 2010.** Gill Coffin presented the Trustees' report and Gillian Bryan presented the Treasurer's Annual report, which are attached. We ask Gillian to submit the Annual report to the Charity Commission. We accept these reports and record our thanks to Gill and Gillian. We also thank Peter Ullathorne for examining the accounts and reappoint him to examine the accounts for 2011.

05.11 We ask the Committee and Trustees to clarify when the Royal Mail 'Articles for the blind' labels may be used by readers.

06.11 We also request that the Committee and Trustees should consider the possibility of evening up the total cost of the Talking Friend and postage to those subscribers who do not qualify for free postage with those who do.

07.11 **The number of subscribers** has been included in the Trustees' report. Gill Coffin commented that there had been a slight reduction in the numbers of subscribers.

08.11 **Membership of the Talking Friends committee.** The following people are willing to serve as members of the Talking Friends committee: Stella Roberts, Anne Austin, Gillian Bryan, Joe Coffin, William Waddilove – as website administrator. Anne Fletcher and Linda Pegler wish to be released from the committee and we thank them for their service.

09.11 **Trustees.** John Lampen has completed his period of service as a Trustee to the Association; we agree to release him and thank him for his service. Central England Area Quaker Meeting Nominations Committee has been asked to bring another name for consideration. We thank our Trustees for their work on behalf of the Association.

10.11 **Gill Coffin recorded thanks** to members of the committee, to the readers and all who work on behalf of the Talking Friends Association.

11.11 There has been no report back to Area Meeting recently on the activities of the Talking Friends Association. Gill Coffin and Alan Johnson agree to compile a report.

12.11 **Update on the use of digital technology.** Danny Collman, vice- chair of Birmingham Talking Newspapers Association spoke to the Meeting. He reported that BTNA have recently provided Memory stick Players for all their subscribers at an approximate cost of £20.00 each. He demonstrated one model. These are simple to operate and answer the dilemma about whether CDs or Memory sticks should be used to record onto.

Alan reported that there has been an ongoing discussion with Peter Sender of Quaker Communications at Friends House about how Memory Sticks might be introduced. This will form an agenda item at our next Committee Meeting.

13.11 **AOB.** Gillian Bryan reported that the bank transfer from the Nationwide Building Society to Cafcash is now almost completed. The Cafcash account is an online account. Friends will need to provide Bank Sort Code, Account number and name used on the account for any claims. Payments may need a second signatory as double authorisation.

14.11 Friends were reminded of the need for additional members of the committee and for Trustees and although efforts have been made to publicise the need, ultimately personal appeal is most effective. Nominations Committee would welcome suggestions of names for consideration.

Signed: Gill Coffin

19 / 5 / 011