

**Lewes Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs**  
**Sunday, 7 June 2020 at 14.30**  
**MINUTES**

**17.20. Change of Title**

We agree that Zoom enabled business meetings held during the current pandemic of Covid-19 infections should be treated as Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs. This applies to the April and May 2020 Working Meetings as well as any future business meetings.

**18.20. Adoption of Green Olive Trust (UK) as a Lewes Local Meeting concern, and its application to QPSW**

We have received an email from the Green Olive Trust and a draft paper on the Greenhouse project for which the Green Olive Foundation (i.e. the Kenyan charity) are seeking funds from QPSW (documents attached to these minutes).

Friends at Lewes Meeting have had links with Kenyan Friends since the 1980s. The Green Olive Trust was established following a concern brought to Lewes Meeting by one of our members and, since 2013, we have regularly supported the work of the Trust. The Meeting and the Children's Meeting have raised awareness of and funds for the Trust; currently three members of the Meeting are Trustees of the Trust. We were pleased to see that Green Olive Trust became a Quaker Recognised Body in 2019.

We hear that one of the students supported into higher education by the Trust graduated in Agriculture in 2017. She is advising on the Greenhouse Project and will be involved in its implementation. We fully support the work that Trust is doing to advance the Greenhouse Project in Western Kenya proposed by the Green Olive Foundation.

**19.20. EORG Minute 30 May / Closing Silence**

We have received the following minute from the meeting of the Eldership and Oversight Resource Group (EORG) held on 30 May:

*3. Review of silence at the end of notices*

*We asked at the end of January for this to happen at Business Meeting, but building development and other matters intervened. The Clerks are intending to bring it to business meeting on June 7, noting, we hope, that other agenda items have prevented it coming sooner. We know that there are some Friends who would prefer the closing silence not to be called for, with some querying whether EORG should have introduced it, even for a trial, without prior consideration at a Business Meeting. We hope that those attending the business meeting will be able to discern whether or not it has been an improvement to our being together on Sunday mornings.*

We wish to uphold the Friends who serve on EORG and we recognise their good intentions in this matter but agree that the trial of a closing silence to our Meeting for Worship has not been welcomed by the Meeting as a whole. We will not continue the practice as and when we meet again for Meeting for Worship in person.

### **20.20. Triennial Report**

We ask the Clerks to forward the attached Triennial Report (as amended) to Area Meeting.

### **21.20. Closing Minute**

13 Friends attended this meeting. We hope to meet again on 5 July 2020.

John Thurley  
Clerk