



Notes of the Cornwall Faith Forum Annual General Meeting held on 25th June 2024 at 7.00 pm at All Saints Hightertown Church Hall, Truro.

Present: Andrew Yates (AY) Chair, Paul Green (PG), Paul Haines (PH), Barbara Warwick, Helen Chiverton, Qudsia Ward (QW), Kerstin Jakt, Gemma Tracey, Paul Kleiman, Adam Feldman, Malcolm Bowers (MB), Kathy Pope, Philomena Clifford, Chris Ashby-Zwozdiak, Eve Salthouse, Jane Yeomans, Sophie Muir, Naeem Ahmad, Muna Ahmad, Rosey Sanders (RS) (notes),

Apologies: Geoff Watson, Rita Stephen, Gaynor Ward, Peter Wood.

1. **Notes of AGM held on 25th July 2023 were approved (viewable on website).** These were approved as an accurate recording of the last AGM.
2. **Presentation of the examined accounts for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 (viewable on website).**

All present thanks MB for all his hard work as CFF Treasurer and for preparing these accounts. AY asked all present if there was anyone who could take on the role as Treasurer as MB is wanting to retire. AY asked if attendees could go back to their faith communities and see if there was anyone present within them to assist. Also thank you to Barbara Russett for auditing the accounts and for making no charge. MB outlined the accounts.

MB stated that the accounts don't make good reading. Little income has come in. There has been a loss of £4-5,000 and the Education Budget is in the red. On page 2 the loss of £750 in the Education has come out the DK fund. An agreement had been made with the Trustees that as they felt that the Education work to be important that this could be paid out of the DK fund.

We have been successful in the past in obtaining grants for the education work. CAZ is going to be liaising with PG re more education funding. AY & PG will be working on grants for the building in the Autumn.

The accounts were proposed by Naeem Ahmad and seconded by Eve Salthouse, and all approved.

3. **Election of Members to Executive**

The results 2024 election of the twenty voting members (aka the Executive) are set out below. Therefore the twenty voting members for 2023 are:

Hindu Faith

Paul Green; Vacancy

Pagan Faith

Eve Salthouse; Vacancy

Bahai Faith

Philomena Clifford; Diana Profaska

Islamic Faith

Naeem Ahmad; Dureid Rifai

Jewish Faith

Jeremy Jacobson; Adam Feldman

Buddhist Faith

Sophie Muir; Vacancy

Christian Faith

Rev'd Ray Borrett; Kathy Pope

Voting Members (6 places):

Andrew Yates, Babs Rounsevell, Paul Haines, Qudsia Ward, Rita Stephen, Geoff Boswell

4. Election to the Board of Trustees

The named individuals below were all re-elected to the Board of Trustees:

Andrew Yates, Eve Salthouse, Duried Rifai, Philomena Clifford, Kathy Pope, Geoff Boswell
(NB Babs Rounsevell has stepped down)

5. Review of 2023/24:

Learning for Peace

There was a multi-faith day held in February for Pencalenick Special School. Thanks to volunteers who came. It was felt to be a successful day.

This time tomorrow project - this project involves young people of faith in Cornwall whereby video interviews are recorded with them regarding the relationship of their faith and their daily life, as well what it is like to grow up in Cornwall as a young person of faith. CAZ advised that it has been difficult getting young people to participate and interviews with adults may have to take place instead. The intention is for these to be an online resource for teachers with secure access onto our website.

PG advised that he will be visiting Truro School on behalf of the CIPF and will be discussing community based work and how individuals can make a difference.

QW advised that frequently individuals from the CFF speak on the Ahmadiyya radio station.

Building for Peace

PG gave an update regarding the building project. There is now be a phased approach to the building, see website: <https://dorkemmyn.org.uk/the-building/> Phase 1 has now been completed with the new faith poles in situ – we now have 16 poles. PG is going to revise the report as the lease is due for renewal. We stated that Phase 2 (a covered structure) would be complete by 2025 and obviously we need to push on with this. AY & PG will be looking at funding in the Autumn.

Sharing for Peace

Advent Spiral – held in November

Holocaust Memorial Day Service, Truro Cathedral.

We have held our Spring and Summer gatherings at the DK Peace Field. Currently there are 13 faith poles in situ, but there will be 4 more poles unveiled on Sunday. These are:

6. Any other business

Closure of the Interfaith Network – It was noted that the IFN had lost its funding and has subsequently closed which is sad news. It is hoped however that Interfaith Week 10th – 17th November will continue by local groups. IFN website is still available with its extensive resources. <https://www.interfaithweek.org/> The CFF aims to celebrate Interfaith Week 2024.

Cornwall Faith Forum Membership – All those present were asked to check with their faith communities that individuals are signed up as members of the CFF. Membership numbers are significantly lower since the onset of GDPR as a lot of past members did not sign up again. Having a large membership will increase our chance with funding bids. RS to check that membership form is on the website and to report on numbers.

Faith Covenant – KP reported that the CFF Executive are making good progress with setting up a Faith Covenant between CFF and Cornwall Council. There is now an opportunity for people to make comments on this proposal – Hopefully positive ones ... (and / or helpful ones from critical friends !) – on the Lets Talk Cornwall website. Please do look at the survey and we hope to get a number of responses as an indication of the importance that Cornwall's Faith Communities are placing on this piece of work. The feedback form is now live at: [Faith Covenant for Cornwall | Let's Talk Cornwall](#) Let's Talk Cornwall is a useful platform for engagement and for us to share information on work to date with our faith communities, relevant Cornwall Council services and colleagues and other interested parties.

Discussion took place regarding proposed mapping exercise of the faith communities and in particular keeping this up to date.

Future activities

The Chair asked individuals to pair up with someone attending the meeting they did not know and to make suggestions of future potential activities that the CFF could undertake. These ideas are as follows:

- Faith training for institutions e.g. nursing/police
- Getting the DK building moving forward
- More schools' work
- Increase the CFF membership
- For the CFF to bless new projects (as is the custom of the Jewish Faith Community), particularly joyous things! The opening of the new A30 road at Chiverton was made as a suggestion.
- Investigate 10 funds/grants for faith-based charities
- Keep going with the DK building. A distinct space for the faith communities of Cornwall is important!
- It was noted that there is a Multi-faith Chapel at the University. It was suggested that marking Divali with the University could be an activity. Also keep marking each other's festivals at Penmount or elsewhere in the winter months.
- Support/develop community ladders for those in need.
- We are too niche! We need to reach out to the East & West parts of Cornwall.
- Annual Open Meetings in a significant venue widely advertised on themed topics e.g. the Environment – Care for Earth/Caring for our Neighbours. It was noted that previous Open Meetings had been well attended in the past (pre-pandemic).

- PH gave an update regarding the Ginko tree seedling (the one tree that survived Hiroshima). It is hoped that one of the seedlings will be planted at the Peace Field. PH is also hoping to give a future talk about his recent Baltic Walk for Peace.

RS/Aug 24