

**Bath and North East Somerset
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Minutes for the meeting held at
Bath Spa University
Wednesday 13 October 2010
7.00 – 9.00 pm**

Present:

Christian Denominations and other Religions Committee

Jane O'Hara Baha'i (Acting Chair)
John Harvey Buddhist

Church of England Committee

David Williams
Tony Bradley
Sue Rodford

Teachers' Committee

Sylvia Such NAHT
Ann Hatton

Local Authority Committee

Co-opted members

Denise Cush Bath Spa University

In attendance

Natasha Imlay Pagan
Woody River Inter-faith Development worker
Fred Ward Clerk/Associate Adviser

1. Welcome and apologies

The Clerk took the Chair.

John Harvey, Woody River and Natasha Imlay were introduced and welcomed.

Apologies were received from: Mukhtiar Singh Gill, Mary Dadley, Garry Webber, Margaret West and Neil Baker.

Members expressed their thanks for the work Dave Campbell had undertaken as Chair and member over the last four years.

ACTION

The Clerk will write and pass on members' appreciation.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

As there were no nominations, it was suggested members were circulated asking for possible names in confidence. If there emerged a front runner, the clerk would contact the person asking if they would agree to stand at the next meeting. Tony Bradley indicated that he might consider standing for Chair.

ACTION

The clerk will circulate to all members a list of all of those eligible to be elected, as suggested.

Jane O'Hara acted as Chair for this meeting.

3. Membership

Two new prospective members have been proposed and Natascha Imlay (replacing Yvonne Aburrow), for the Pagans, attended. Yvonne Aburrow, the previous Pagan representative, indicated her willingness to continue serving but as the Unitarian representative. In order for these nominations to be approved, they would need endorsement from their respective groups.

ACTION

The Clerk agreed to write to them formally asking for a confirmation letter.

4. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2010 were approved, subject to minor corrected errors.

5. Matters arising

- a) VI Form Conference 2010: Denise Cush circulated copies of an article in 'RE Today' praising the work of Bath and NES SACRE and Bath Spa University jointly organising this event. Over 700 young people attended and gave very positive feedback.

6. SACRE Developments

- a) Resource Centre

Neil Baker was not in attendance but he later informed the clerk that boxes were being borrowed as a result of the course held last March. The course received many positive comments from those who attended.

ACTION

If funds allow, the Clerk will look into organising a similar session targeting two more religions' resources later in the financial year.

- b) Website

Discussion focused on whether it was possible for Tony Bradley to have direct access to the web site to make changes and additions.

ACTION

Tony Bradley was asked to look into the matter.

7. RE Pupil Conferences

- a) It was reported that Broadlands School, Keynsham had organised an Inter-faith event in May 2010 for Year 10 pupils, and is intending to repeat this 4 July 2011. It was suggested that students from other schools could benefit from the experience of the Broadlands event, and the email of the organising teacher was given to those interested.

ACTION

The Clerk will write to Kerry Huggins at Broadlands to ask if the programme of this year's event could be more widely publicised to other schools.

- b) In principal, members felt that a VI Form Conference in 2011 at Bath Spa University should be held even if less funds are available. This would need to be held after the Broadlands event as some of the same people might be involved in both (e.g. the following week).

8. Locally Agreed Syllabus

David Williams and the Clerk have been attending joint meetings with representatives from North Somerset and Somerset SACREs to draw up a revised draft syllabus. This has now been circulated to schools with a questionnaire. The next meeting is on 20 October 2010 when an in-service programme to introduce the syllabus to teachers will be discussed.

ACTION

**SACRE website: re-bathnes.org.uk
Clerk to SACRE: Fred Ward Tel 01453 750009**

The Clerk will organise after-school meetings during Terms 3 or 4.

9. SACRE Development Plan and Finance

A draft development plan was circulated indicating the effects of a 50% reduction in the budget. Members prioritised the following areas: Training for the introduction of the Locally Agreed Syllabus; Support for a VI Form Conference; A Resource Training Workshop; Monitoring RE; and Professional Development for Members. It was noted that a 50% cut in funding would not allow SACRE to carry out all of its responsibilities.

10. National Developments

Denise Cush circulated a summary of new and recent developments, especially changes being planned by the new government. There was still considerable uncertainty over the effects of the proposed cutbacks in education.

9. Any other business

- a) Jane O'Hara introduced Woody River, the Inter-Faith Development Worker [funded under the Government initiative 'Faiths In Action'. She outlined her recent work at the City of Bath College and her plans to liaise with secondary schools on multi-faith issues.

ACTION

Denise Cush agreed to send her contact details for Heads of RE in local schools.

- b) Members were reminded of the RE Celebrations planned for March 2011 and asked to look at the RE Council website for ideas on what could be done.

ACTION

The Clerk will bring suggestions to the next meeting when members will be able to consider what can be afforded.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 25 January 2011 from 7.00 pm at Bath Spa University.

ACTION

Denise Cush agreed to book the room and order refreshments.