

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
at Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall on
Wednesday 13th June 2018, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Present: Aga Cahn, Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Cathy Michell, Cllr Claire Richards, Jag Srai, Janet Scott, Julia Ewans, Kerri McCourty (Clerk), , Rev Robert Mackley, Dr Shirley Hall, Tony Reynolds and Virginia Barnes.

Apologies: Cllr Samantha Hoy, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Ged McHale Moira Middleton, Taradasa, Catherine Watts, Rebecca Smith and Shala Suleiman.

Absent: Elizabeth Bassett, Raj Shah and Raymond Mitchell

Guests: Becky Palmer and James Wood

1. Welcome and Introductions

This meeting was quorate.

Julia Ewans (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed James Wood and Becky Palmer to the meeting. Becky Palmer is planning to join SACRE as the Quaker representative after the resignation of Janet Scott. James Wood attended the meeting as an observer to understand more about the role of SACRE. SACRE members went round and introduced themselves to Becky and James.

2. Apologies

The SACRE Clerk informed those present that apologies had been received from Cllr Samantha Hoy, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Ged McHale, Moira Middleton, Taradasa, Catherine Watts, Rebecca Smith and Shahla Suleiman

All apologies were read out and accepted by the committee.

3. Minutes of 7 February 2018 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

SACRE members checked the minutes of the last meeting for accuracy.

The minutes were subsequently signed by Julia Ewans (Vice Chair).

4. Correspondence

There has been no correspondence. Kerri McCourty informed members that Janet Scott is resigning from the committee.

JE

KM

Shirley Hall has retired from the Diocese of Ely. Julia Ewans suggested that it would be a shame to lose the expertise that Shirley has and suggested that Shirley Hall is co-opted onto the committee. This was seconded by Tony Reynolds and Robert Mackley. SACRE members approved to co-opt Shirley onto the SACRE committee.

5. Agreed Syllabus council approval update

JE

On 22nd May 2018, Helen Manley and Julia Ewans attended the Children and Young People Committee (CYP) meeting to pass through the revised Agreed Syllabus 2018. There was one abstention by a Councillor but the syllabus was successfully adopted by the CYP committee.

The syllabus has also been adopted by the Northamptonshire, Rutland and Peterborough local syllabus.

Amanda is now running Agreed Syllabus roadshows across the county to help support teachers to implement the new syllabus.

Cllr Claire Richards stated how impressed she was with the Agreed Syllabus and how other Councillors were impressed with the level of research that went into the planning and drafting of the Agreed Syllabus.

6. Agreed Syllabus launch conference feedback

AF/KM

On Thursday 3rd May, the new Agreed Syllabus was launched with the Making a Difference RE Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon. The conference was attended by over 160 delegates from Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

The conference had two keynote speakers, Kathryn Wright (works with NATRE and Diocese of Norwich) and Janet Orchard (PGCE Secondary Co-ordinator at University of Bristol). There were also a range of workshops to support both primary and secondary teachers with the implementation of the new syllabus as well as promoting their own CPD.

The overall feedback from the conference was very positive and the online evaluation form was completed by 80 delegates.

The conference received a lot of press coverage with BBC radio Cambridgeshire attending on the day and interviewing several workshop presenters on the importance of the new syllabus and having an RE curriculum. Following the event, newspapers such as the Fenland Citizen and the Cambridge Independent published articles on the new syllabus.

7. Development plan 2017-2018

Members had access to the 2016-2017 development plan. However it needs to be updated due to the Agreed Syllabus review coming to an end.

Speakers in schools

Julia Ewans suggested that SACRE members focus on faith and belief speakers for schools. Aga Cahn spoke about how the Beth Shalom Synagogue is writing a report on the volume of school visits in the past academic year. Jag Srai commented on how the Gurdwara in Cambridge is overrun with visits from schools.

Westhill Awards

The Westhill and NASACRE bursary was brought to SACRE members' attention. At the NASACRE Conference and AGM, NASACRE's executive committee commented on how they keep getting applications from the same SACREs. Amanda Fitton and Julia Ewans suggested that Cambridgeshire SACRE put a bid together. One suggestion for the bid was to create a multi-faith roadshow. The focus of the bid should be for the Fenland schools who do not have access to the selection of different places of worship.

Janet Scott, trustee of a grant-making body The Hockerill Foundation, discussed her experience of reviewing applications for funding. Issues to consider is whether the proposed project is specific and whether the project is sustainable after the funding has ceased. Janet suggested that members should make contact with the grant secretary to find out what the trustees are looking for in an application.

Cllr Claire Richards made members aware of Innovate and Cultivate grants from Cambridgeshire County Council. Claire will look into the grants from the Council.

Action: Cllr Claire Richards will look into the Innovate and Cultivate grants from Cambridgeshire County Council.

CR

Julia Ewans asked SACRE members to volunteer to form a sub-committee to look into writing a bid for a grant. Cathy Michell, Dr Shirley Hall and Cllr Claire Richards volunteered.

Amanda will re-draft the development plan to include the new objectives listed above.

Action: Amanda Fitton to draft a development plan for 2018-2019

AF

8. Annual Report 2016-2017

Amanda Fitton, Julia Ewans and Kerri McCourty had drafted the annual report for 2016-2017. This document was circulated to members before the meeting.

It was suggested that the introduction to the report should include how Cambridgeshire SACRE has particular emphasis on religions working together for the public good.

9. NASACRE Conference and AGM

Kerri McCourty and Amanda Fitton attended the NASACRE Conference and AGM on Thursday 24th May 2018 at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, City of London. This year the theme was 'Stronger Together - Celebrating the power of Community.' Right Honourable Charles Clarke opened with the introduction for the conference. Charles spoke about the need for interfaith through SACREs and to build a multi-faith RE.

The first keynote speaker was Dr Vanessa Odgen (CEO Mulberry School's Trust) who concentrated on 'SACREs, Schools and Society: Building Bridges Across the Faultlines' and spoke about the social changes in society such as the importance of social media. Dr Odgen emphasised the importance of children from faith backgrounds to understand their own cultural identity to instil confidence. Dr David Hampshire (Assistant Director for Inter Faith Network for the UK) was the afternoon keynote speaker and talked about the Inter Faith Network Youth Project.

10. AOB

Aga Cahn suggested that the synagogue would be able host SACRE meetings in the future.

Meeting dates for 2018-2019:

- Tuesday 2nd October 2018
- Wednesday 6th February 2019
- Thursday 20th June 2019

Next Meeting

Formal Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd October 2018, 13:30-15:30 in the Kreis Viersen room at Shire Hall.

The meeting closed at 15:11.

Signed: 

Date: