

Minutes of the Second General Meeting of the Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty held on Wednesday 24 May at 1 p.m. at the Legal Resources Centre at Grahamstown.

Present: The Revd. Nancy Charton in the Chair, the Revd. R. Narais, Mrs A. Beard, Ms B. Orpen, D. Pitman, C. Poole

Apologies: Mrs J. Joubert

1. The Chairperson read the minutes of the first meeting and signed them.
2. The subject of the standard constitution was brought to the attention of the Committee: Mr Pitman explained that it was to be faxed through sometime later in the month and the matter would be held over for discussion at the next meeting.
3. It was resolved that a Watch Book was to be kept by the media group incorporating articles referring specifically to the death penalty in S.A. and that in addition a dossier of articles was to be kept incorporating any pertinent documents, for instance of a legal, theological or political nature.
4. Press: it was reported that Judy Sparg of the Daily Dispatch had inquired into the case of 17 accused standing trial in Bisho. It was resolved that Mr. Pitman would write to the editor of the Daily Dispatch in re Death Watch notice and further that enquiries would be made into the Bisho trial.
5. Church liaison: Reverend Charton proposed investigating the theological issues relating to the Death Penalty
6. Membership: (i) Membership Liaison: it was resolved that a complete list of members be compiled:
 - (ii) Further, that a circular be created so that the society be "seen to be doing work."
 - (iii) To extend membership drive to those who had shown interest at the inaugural meeting.
 - (iv) The question of how to become involved locally in a public manner was to be discussed
 - (v) It was reported that Mr. Denis Davis had offered to lend the society a video on the death penalty and it was resolved that a public showing of this video would initiate the publicity campaign. It was, hence, proposed that the video would be shown in the Arts Major theatre at Rhodes on August 16 at 7:30 p.m. under the auspices of ANSOC.
7. It was reported that documents had arrived from the organisation in Cape town containing the minutes of the inaugural meeting and that they had requested feedback from the local chapters.
8. Ms B. Orpen reported that Lawyers for Human Rights have placed us on their fax list and that we were now in a position to receive regular updates on the national position.
9. Court Monitoring: it was resolved to hold this matter over for discussion at the next meeting.
10. It was agreed that a regular Death Watch should be published in Grocott's.
11. The meeting was closed after it was agreed to meet again at the Legal Resources Centre at 1 p.m. on June 28.