



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 26 June 2010 at Newtown

2010.16 Opening Worship and Welcome

Quaker faith and practice section 20.68 and 25.01 have been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome 31 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

- North Wales: Catherine James and Dorothy Needham
- South Wales: Jane Harries

Other area meetings in Wales have not appointed Friends to attend on this occasion but the following have agreed to report back to their respective area meeting:

- Mid Wales: Dorothy Bell
- Southern Marches: Joyce Gee.

David Harries and Cynthia Rowland have been appointed to act as Elders.

2010.17 *Calon* and *The Friend*

Helen Porter has agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and to report for *Calon*.

Stevie Krayner, editor of *Calon* has spoken about her plans for the next issues which will focus on Children and young people and education. She is, as always happy to receive comments and contributions, especially from children and young people.

2010.18 Outreach matters

(i) Eisteddfod:

The group appointed to coordinate the Quaker witness at the Eisteddfod this year have reported. As well as having a Quaker presence in the Cytûn tent, the Peace tent has agreed to display exhibition material and some literature. Arrangements for the Cytûn tent have changed this year so that instead of Friends having a particular day under their care, different towns in the vicinity of the Maes will have responsibility for different days. Thus Friends will be very welcome to attend and to help ensure a Quaker presence on any day. We look forward to a report after the event, at our next meeting.

(ii) Outreach resources

Catherine James reports that in the end only one of the new poster series was suitable for translation, but that this will be a bilingual poster. The Outreach week posters, which feature pictures of individual Quakers, will also be translated. There is on-going work on other possible posters.

Work in hand on the review of the standard leaflets.

(iii) Display Boards

Jules Montgomery has forwarded possible options for new lightweight stands. We agree to allow a budget of up to £200 for the purchase of a range of display material by the administrator, to try to cater for the varied needs of Friends in different situations. This money is already budgeted for.

(iv) Film on S4C.

Catherine James has been approached by S4C about making a film about Spiritual Journeys entitled 'Y Daith'. It is based upon the Quaker trail around the Dolgellau area. It will feature Quakers and others whose spiritual journeys have included Quaker influences.

2010.19 Celebrating the Quaker Way

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) has been approached with a suggestion that the book *Celebrating the Quaker Way* might be translated into Welsh. They ask whether this would be welcomed by Friends in Wales, or whether Friends in Wales would prefer to suggest alternative ways to celebrate Quakerism rather than adapting existing material.

This is an exciting opportunity.

We know that writing original material in Welsh often feels newer and fresher than translated material. We think that we have the non-financial resources; we are aware however, that whatever is done requires organisation.

One suggestion is to have groups working on it locally.

We ask Friends to take these ideas back to their local meetings and discuss and test them so that we can return to this matter at our next meeting with some more concrete proposals to discuss with JRCT.

2010.20. Cytûn and other interchurch and interfaith matters

(i) Cytûn

Catherine James, our representative on the board of Cytûn has reported. The main matters from recent agendas:

- **Finance:** Churches are questioning the cost of Cytûn. There may need to be radical rethinking in the near future about the whole structure, purpose and future of the organisation.
- Cytûn are discussing a **National Sponsoring Body for Wales;**
- The **Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment** is mainly for those churches which are the only one in a town or village, where those of other denominations can be made as welcome as possible in an unfamiliar environment.
- The **Cardiff Race Relations Project** will be affiliated to the **International committee of Cytûn**. This committee hopes to visit Syria in September.
- Wales hopes to become the first "**Citizens of Sanctuary**" country.

- The Cytûn tent at the **Urdd Eisteddfod** worked well. Welsh Council on alcohol and other Drugs provided a non alcoholic bar, which they will also do at the **National Eisteddfod in Glyn Ebwy**

(ii) Christian Aid.

We have received an invitation from Christian Aid (Wales) to appoint a representative to their Committee. Lynn Moseley attended their last meeting in April as an interim appointment. She felt that it was a worthwhile organisation for Quakers to be part of. We ask our nominations committee to bring the name of a Friend to represent us. She has some resources which meetings can use.

(iii) Interfaith Council for Wales;

Stevie Kraye attended a consultation event held by the Welsh Interfaith Council for Wales on Building Good Community Relations through interfaith and equalities work, hosted by the Dept of Theology, Religious Studies, and Islamic Studies, University of Wales Lampeter on 24.4.10 on our behalf.

The report of the day is available on www.interfaithwales.org. Quakers are represented on the network through Cytûn.

2010.21 An introduction to the Alternatives to Violence project

Jane Harries, from Bridgend meeting has given us a short introduction to the Alternatives to Violence project so that we can take it back to our meetings and the communities where we live. What skills do we have to deal with conflict in positive and creative ways?

The main themes are affirmation, building community, communications, decision-making, cooperation and conflict resolution, which can be manifested in transforming power. Facilitators would be available to develop more training opportunities in Wales.

2010.22. Working with Woodbrooke on Quaker roles and spiritual nurture

Further to Minute 2010.07, we have received a summary of the responses to the questions about what kind of training Friends who live in Wales would like to support Quaker roles in meetings.

The responses also include suggestions about what MFW can do to support those taking on particular tasks in local and area meetings, and deepen our spiritual life.

We are enthusiastic about welcoming more Woodbrooke training events in Wales and think that MFW, acting as an enabling and facilitating body could produce a varied programme of events to explore our Quaker faith and how we practise it. The aim would be to support the needs of Friends, especially in the rural west of Wales, which is further from Birmingham. There is a possibility of rediscovering some of the things that hold us together as Quakers, our historic theology: for example: what is a gathered meeting, what do we mean by right ordering? This may be especially true for meetings which have had an influx of new people.

We have also heard of the huge benefit of attending Woodbrooke for events, to be part of a learning environment.

The full set of responses have been sent to Woodbrooke's tutor in charge of Eldership and Oversight training, Michael Eccles, and forwarded to the off-sites programme manager. They are both keen to promote Woodbrooke events in Wales and have offered some guidance about possibilities, and costs. It is likely that a series of events would be offered at a reduced cost. We need to be aware of the economics. We could be adventurous about using resources such as the legacy we have, both for Woodbrooke on the road, and

possibly, to support those who wish to attend Woodbrooke. We would also need to market the series and could include invitations to neighbouring area meetings.

It is important that any events arranged through Woodbrooke are promoted and agreed by the area meetings in Wales. We therefore ask area meetings to discuss and test this proposal before our next meeting on October 30th, so that we can offer a coordinated response and a programme to make the best use of our total resources. We would also welcome feedback from local meetings, particularly from South West and North West Wales where we have not received any responses so far.

The meeting of clerks of area meetings to be held in Mid-October will discuss, in more detail, how the proposal might be put into practice. We will return to this at our next meeting.

2010.23 Report from Arrangements Committee.

Twenty-eight Friends attended the retreat in Aberystwyth led by Lizz Roe on April 17. It was well attended and was a good day.

The meeting on 30th October in Aberystwyth will be on *Motivating Change – can we reach the non-usual suspects?*

Arrangements Committee brings the following suggestions for dates and venues for 2011.

- February 26: Llanelwedd
- June 25: Brecon
- October 22 or 29: Llanidloes

It has been noted that half term is not a convenient time for some Friends.

Possible topics and themes include: Outreach, Israel/Palestine, Wales Peace Academy. We welcome further suggestions.

We will circulate these suggestions to area meetings to try to avoid clashes of dates or overlaps in provision for Friends. We ask the clerks to discuss these when they meet with area meeting clerks and clerks of trustees on October 12 at Pales Meeting House.

We will confirm dates and venues at our October meeting.

2010.24 Meeting for Sufferings – Using our resources well

MFW Trustees agreed a response to be sent to the queries about Priority g from *A Framework for Action – Using our Resources Well* – from Meeting for Sufferings. The response was informed by the responses sent by area meetings within Wales. We have received this response for information. There are several suggestions which we will be working on in the coming years, for example a joint website.

2010.25 Quaker Life Representative Council

Liz Butler was prevented from attending the last meeting held 19-21 March at Woodbrooke. Dave Butler took her place at short notice. Dave has provided a written report. He found the experience heartening and uplifting.

2010.26 Reports from Trustees

Meeting of Friends in Wales Trustees met for the first time on May 24th, with Gethin Evans as convenor. They have

- Discussed how the trustees can free full Meeting of Friends in Wales, from too much time spent on administrative detail
- Reviewed employment arrangements for our administrator. Having fulfilled her initial three-year contract, we are pleased to hear that Jules Montgomery will continue her work as our administrator on a yearly contract, which will depend upon continued funding from Britain Yearly Meeting central funds
- Authorised expenditure on technical support for the website
- Put in hand our registration with the charity commission
- As requested by this meeting, they agreed a response to the queries on Priority G – Using our resources well, of 'A Framework for Action'
- Reviewed the finance policy and are satisfied with the current operation
- They will be reviewing our insurance policy
- They will recommend the name of an examiner of accounts for the next three years

2010.27 Nominations and Appointments

(i) **Between meetings appointments.** : The following appointments and releases were made between meetings

- **Arrangements Committee:** Jane Beaton (NW) has asked to be released from Arrangements committee. By the between meetings procedure, Frances Voelcker (NW) has been appointed in her place to serve until 31.12. 2012
- **Trustee:** Viv Streets (SW) to serve until 31.12.2013

(ii) Appointments.

Our nominations committee has reported to us. They bring forward the following nominations

Clerk of MFW Trustees: Gethin Evans (to 3.12.2011)

Representative on Christian Aid Committee: Lynn Moseley (to 31.12.2013)

Representative to attend the Undeb yr Annibynwyr annual meeting to be held at Coleg yr Drindod, Caerfyrddin on July 8th 2010: *(to be appointed between meetings if possible)*

Representative to attend the Quaker Life faith and practice conference November 19-21 2010: Catherine James

(iii) Nominations requested

We note that the following appointments are required to serve from 1.1.2011 and ask Nominations committee to find Friends to serve.

Co-clerk (to end 2013)

Assistant clerk (to end 2011)

Trustee (to end 2013)

Publications Committee - one vacancy (to end 2013)

Arrangements committee (MW or SM) (to end 2013)

Archivist (to end 2013)

Cytûn International Affairs Committee - (to end 2013)

We agree that in future it is more appropriate for area or local meetings to appoint regional Cytûn representatives if necessary

(iv) Nominations for Nominations Committee:

Susan Greaves (MW) comes to the end of her period of service on nominations committee on 31.12.2010. We ask Dorothy Bell and Stevie Krayner to bring the name of a Friend to serve.

(v) **Central Nominations Committee.** Service information forms have been circulated to those present today

2010.27 Contact list

Further to minute 2010.11, our administrator has reported on the logistics of producing a contact book to cover all Friends who live in Wales.

We have related this to good use of all our resources. Is it better to use one list for Wales, or to use those already being produced by area meetings? Whatever we do always requires regular updating with data collected locally.

Since our last meeting we have also received a minute from Mid-Wales area meeting suggesting that it might be more cost effective to distribute the lists of the area meetings concerned to those who need them. The books could be scanned in to produce a loose-leaf version for those who need it.

We need to include those on the borders who are part of the Meeting of Friends in Wales community – for Wirral and Chester, Worcester and Shropshire, Southern Marches and Gloucestershire area meetings. We can use Jules Montgomery, the administrator as a communication hub for up to date information.

It would be helpful for those producing the different books to meet together to agree common procedures. We ask Julia Aspden to initiate this.

We agree that this should be discussed further by the meeting with area meeting clerks, and clerks of trustees, on October 12.

2010.28 Walking the talk – practically, what can we do about sustainability.

Cytûn

Liza Brown, Tom Brown, Liz Butler and Dave Butler have opened us to consider the personal lifestyles, and choices we make to live more sustainably.

How can we be true to our Quaker beliefs – to be part of the change we seek? Can we trust that way will open if we follow our discernment?

If love is the first motion, we may be able not just to know these things, moved by guilt or fear, but to hold them in our hearts so that we can hear the sound of the earth crying and be more aware of the inheritance we leave for future generations? The earth needs our love.

Can we, as George Fox said: Walk cheerfully over the world?

We have explored the topic through an 'Any Questions' session which revealed attitudes to personal lifestyle. We worked in small groups to produce 'Advices and Queries' about the choices we make. These were shared in our closing worship and will be circulated with the minutes for further reflection individually and in meetings.

Deborah Rowlands

Julia Aspden

Co-Clerks

Advices and queries on Sustainability – drawn up at Meeting of Friends in Wales held in Newtown 26.6.10 (See Minute 2010.28)

Energy

1. Do you minimise the amount of energy you consume, within the constraints of your particular circumstances?
2. Have you considered the effect of your energy consumption on the planet?

Food

1. Are you aware of the impact on the environment of the food you eat, and its carbon footprint including resources used in its production?
2. Consider whether you will use all the items you purchase

Money

1. Do you consider how your own money is used? This includes not just personal investment and charitable giving but how money held in your name is used, For example, as Quakers, how do local, area and yearly meetings invest their money?
2. How will we protect the weaker members of society if, or when, the breakdown of the financial system occurs?

Travel

1. Can you travel to meeting another way instead of driving solo?
2. Do you consider the cost to the earth as well as other values in making your transport decisions?

Non-food purchases

1. Is your chosen lifestyle within a framework which is compatible with God's creation? Take care to relate all your decisions about purchases to this framework.
2. Do you consider before buying products, what you really need and why? Do you ask the right questions so that what you buy is durable, suits your needs and has minimum impact on the environment? Do you use products responsibly?

*Deborah Rowlands
Julia Aspden,
Co clerks*