



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 28 February 2009 at Llanidloes

09.01. Opening Worship & Welcome

We are pleased to welcome 34 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend: North Wales: Frank Brown; South Wales: Barbara Prys Williams; Hereford and Mid-Wales: Joyce Gee. Susan Greaves and Pat Stoner have been appointed elders for the day.

09.02. Calon and the Friend.

We appoint Barbara Prys Williams to report on this meeting for "*The Friend*" and for "*Calon*".

09.03 Planning for Community, making Connections

Lesley Richards of Church Stretton Meeting, and of Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) planning group and agenda committee, has led us in a discussion of the new Yearly Meeting Gathering which will take place this July. We now understand some of the needs of this type of gathering and how we can help to make it work better for all participants. We are asked, if we are going to YMG, to consider offering to facilitate home groups as there is presently a shortage of facilitators.

The agenda for this year has more space than usual, allowing for more discussion of the issues, particularly of Committed Relationships and of Stewardship, that is, how we do our business together.

09.04. Finance

(i) Annual report and accounts

We receive and agree the annual report and accounts, which have been presented to us by the treasurer, Jon Bell, with the insertion of the sentence in the financial review: "We were in receipt of a legacy of £1000".

(ii) Budget.

The treasurer has brought us a budget for 2009, drawn up from information forwarded to him by the various subgroups or extrapolated from last year's budget. The most substantial item on the budget is for the employment of the administrator, which is covered by the grant from Britain Yearly Meeting.

We agree to use the legacy given by John Roberts (see Min 08.23) for some specific purpose rather than just absorb it into general funds. It will therefore be set up as a designated fund for the time being.

We agree to ask Area Meetings for £5 per adult member. We note that it has remained at this rate since 2005.

(iii) Finance and grant making policy

On agreeing a financial and grant giving policy in Minute 08.09 on 15.iii.2008 it was requested that the financial support group should report on the operation of this policy annually. This is the first such report, covering 2008. It covers those areas of the policy worthy of comment in brief points, referring back to the numbered policy.

4. A half-year report was prepared by the treasurer and examined at the meeting of clerks and convenors. Some thought has been given to the idea of getting a Friend to hold a brief examination of the accounts half way through the year.

8. We have adopted the policy of having all cheques signed by two signatories. While this is inconvenient, it has been found valuable as a check on inadvertent payments, such as when claims for costs of translation for which Friends House is responsible are sent to MFW.

6, 13. As no events were held this year, there was no call on the bursary fund and there was no question of these not being self-funding!

12. No grants to external bodies have been made this year.

The finance group managed without any meeting last year, doing all that was felt necessarily by working remotely, or by informal face to face meetings.

The treasurer has suggested that it would be useful to appoint an assistant treasurer as soon as possible, so that there is someone familiar with the task before he comes to the end of his term of service at the end of this year. We agree to this request and ask our nominations committee to bring a name to our next meeting.

09.05. Nominations and Appointments

(i) Between meetings appointments:

Quaker Peace and Social Witness annual conference: March 27-29: Veronica Grant (MW)

URC Synod: March 7th 2009; Rhayadr: Deborah Rowlands (SW)

(ii) New appointment

Assistant Clerk: Lynn Moseley (SW) until December 31 2011

(iii) Nominations to Britain Yearly Meeting bodies

(a) Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations: Christine Trevett has asked to be released from service. We nominate Alice Southern (SW) to serve from May 2009 to the end of April 2012.

(b) Meeting for Sufferings: Heather Wilcox (SW), Stevie Kraye (SW) (from YM 2009 until YM 2012)

(iv) Coordinator for Eisteddfod 2-9 August, in Bala: Mari Evans (appointed by North Wales AM)

09.06 Calon Future plans

We are looking to the future of Calon.

We have had a long discussion on the use, content and production of Calon, together with its relationship to the website. Full notes have been taken by Stevie Kraye, our new editor. We hope to produce three editions a year and to develop the relationship with the new website. We are reminded of the use of Calon as outreach to those outside Quakers. She will be pleased to accept contributions and suggestions at stevie.kraye@care4free.net

09.07. A Framework for Action

We received a letter inviting comment on A Framework for Action, which arrived after the last meeting and asked for responses by 13th February. The clerks have sent an interim response (which has been available for Friends to see today), and we have been assured that it will not be too late to send in comments after this meeting.

MFW would benefit from knowing what the responses from area and local meetings in Wales have said. We will explore ways of doing this in conjunction with the Recording Clerk's Office.

As MFW, we need to focus on speaking out in the world and making our voice heard. We must find words which communicate our message. We do this through our interchurch and interfaith work. Quaker Quest in Swansea was a wonderful channel for speaking out and for getting to know

one another in a deep way. Outreach and linking with local communities is essential. We have a Welsh constituency which we are part of and which we serve as no other Quaker body does. Our publications in Welsh are an important means of doing this. We also speak by what we do.

09.08. Structures in Wales and the borders

We receive the following minutes from Meeting for Sufferings held 7.2.09:

S/09/02/7: Quaker Structure in Wales and the borders

Further to our minute S/08/09/12 b) and c) of September 2008, we have received the final report from the Assistant Recording Clerk on Quaker Structure in Wales and the borders, following the request by Yearly Meeting 2005 to help resolve the Welsh / English border issues referred to in the report carried out by the RECAST group (paper S/09/02/E).

We have noted the work carried out and agree to forward the report to Yearly Meeting 2009 for information.

We understand there may be further changes to come about in the border areas.

We are grateful to the Friends who are carrying on this work for their faithful persistence.

S/09/02/8: Minutes & Correspondence

a) Hereford & Mid-Wales AM: Formation of a new Mid-Wales Area Meeting

Further to our minute S/09/02/8 above, we receive minute 09/16 of Hereford & Mid-Wales Area Meeting held 17 January 2009 concerning Area Meeting Restructuring (paper S/09/02/mc i a).

We agree to the formation of Mid-Wales Area Meeting as proposed, from 1 April 2009, and look forward to hearing of the choice of a new name for the former Hereford & Mid-Wales Area Meeting and of progress with these arrangements.

Susan Seymour Clerk

The steering group working with the assistant recording clerk has now been laid down but our representatives are still carrying on the work on our behalf by working on memoranda of understanding with the different area meetings in Wales. A draft document looking at issues for area meetings wholly (or mainly) within Wales has been compiled for discussion. It is currently in the hands of trustees in South Wales.: We agree to send this document to North Wales Trustees for their comments before our June meeting, and to other area meetings with meetings in Wales when appropriate, so that we can all continue to support the process of change.

We note the formation of the new area meeting in mid-Wales, and possible changes in the border region. These changes will affect the way in which some of our sub-groups are composed. We have agreed to look at changes in our sub-group structure later in the year.

09.09 Arrangements 2009

Our Arrangements committee have reported as follows:

- (i) Retreat May 16 Dolwyddelan: Booking forms have been distributed today. They will also be distributed via email and through area meetings. People will come together on the day as a community but will also have time for themselves
- (ii) June 27: Felinfach, Lampeter. This venue is now confirmed.
- (iii) October 24: Llanelwedd

09.10 Children and Young People Work Advocates Coordination Group

We have received a report from the children and young people's work advocates group which has

been available for Friends to read. The report notes action to be taken in each area meeting. We note the following extracts from the report:

This committee was prevented from meeting in September 2008 and met for the second time in January 2009 in Cardiff. Since the first meeting Kate Binney has taken on the role of Support Person for all the Advocates in Wales and Julia Richardson has joined the group as the new CYP Work Advocate for H&MW AM. The other four Advocates remain the same: namely Chris Spragg for NW, Sarah Stacy for H&MW and Sue Proudlove and Kate Rastall for SW.

*The main **aims** of the meeting were to share what has been happening in each AM since February 2008 and to clarify and develop the roles of Advocate and Advocate Support Person.*

.....
The committee will meet again in August at Hereford. The three yearly conference for CYP Work Advocates will be held at Woodbrooke in November.

***In conclusion**, this committee is proving to be invaluable and is helping to develop and support CYP's work in Wales and the Borders. There is a great feeling of identity and each member gains from the support within the group. In a group situation it is easier to focus on what needs to be done and how to approach the work. We all end the day feeling supported and less on our own .*

Kate Binney, Convenor of MFW CYPC and Support Person for CYP Work Advocates in Wales, 02.02.09

We are glad that this meeting can facilitate such useful interchange: this may be a model for the future for other roles within area meetings.

09.11 Outreach

i Publications

1. Welsh versions of ecumenical leaflets. English and Welsh versions of these four leaflets were sent to every meeting in Wales and the Borders in September (8 copies altogether). Both English and Welsh versions are now available on <http://www.quaker.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=94043>

When the MFW website is completed in its new version we hope to have the Welsh versions there with a link to the BYM site.

2. Leaflet for Enquirers packs. The leaflet has now been translated into English. Both English and Welsh versions will be sent to Friends House for publication shortly. It will also be on the MFW website.

3. Welsh translation of Funerals and Weddings leaflets: The funerals leaflet has been translated. As BYM is considering the Quaker position on civil partnership during this Yearly Meeting, it is probable a new version of the weddings leaflet will be produced in the next year or two. We are authorised to go ahead with translation and production of enough leaflets for two years.

4. Leaflet for National Eisteddfod at Bala. This is being worked on.

5. Joseph Tregelles Price The leaflet has also been reissued.

ii. Exhibition:

Roger Holloway is working on the upgrade of the permanent exhibition, ie the "What we believe..." and the Waldo panels.

iii. Website

Our administrator, Jules Montgomery, has been working to upgrade our website. The framework is now live on the web and more will be done to upgrade it in the next few weeks. She would value feedback from Friends, particularly on technical aspects, and will report back later in the year. The address is "quakersinwales.org.uk".

iv. Eisteddfod

Cytunwyd yng nghyfarfod cyntaf pwyllgor yr eisteddfod mai'r thema eleni yw'r amgylchedd; defnyddir hon yn eisteddfod yr Urdd a'r Genedlaethol, a hefyd yn y Sioe Frenhinol.

Bob blwyddyn, mae ychwanegiad o 3% i'r swm a delir am y stondinau (eisteddfod a sioe). Mae Cytûn yn awyddus i logi stondin dwbwl yn eisteddfod yr Urdd i ymestyn allan yn well i bobl ifanc. Bydd hyn yn costio mwy, ychwanegiad o 10% yn 2010. Cefnogwn y fenter hon.

[Translation: Eisteddfod:

It has been agreed at the first meeting of the eisteddfod committee that the theme this year will be the environment: this will be used at The National and the Urdd the eisteddfodau and at the Royal Welsh Show.

Annually, there is a built in increase of 3% in the amount we pay for space at the eisteddfodau and the show. Cytûn wishes to hire a double stand at the Urdd eisteddfod to increase outreach to young people. This will incur additional cost, a 10% increase in 2010. We support this initiative.]

v Other Outreach events:

Cerdded i Gynulliad y Cyfarfod Blynyddol:

Mae Catherine James yn gobeithio cerdded o Dŷ Cwrdd Dorothy Owen yn Nhabor ger Dolgellau i Gynulliad y Cyfarfod Blynyddol yn yr haf. Bydd yn gyfle i ddatblygiad ysbrydol. Byddai'n hoffi clywed am eraill a fyddai â ddiddordeb mewn cerdded hefyd, naill ai am ran o'r ffordd, neu bob cam.

[Translation: Walk to Yearly Meeting Gathering:

Catherine James is hoping to walk from Dorothy Owen's meeting house at Tabor near Dolgellau to Yearly Meeting Gathering this summer. It will be an opportunity for spiritual renewal. She is interested in hearing of others who would also like to walk, either all or part of the way.]

09.12 Data Protection:

Since we do not have sufficient annual income to register with the charity commission separately, we are covered by the Britain Yearly Meeting Data Protection Policy and we certify compliance to the Recording Clerk's Office each year. The collection of information from members and attenders is undertaken by the area meetings concerned, but all those using personal information of members for the work of Meeting of Friends in Wales should be aware of the BYM policy which is available for download from www.quaker.org.uk or from the MFW administrator.

09.13. Cytûn and Christian and Interfaith Relations

i. Cytûn

Discussions are underway with the other two national bodies about the funding of the national instruments. Scotland and England are aware that, although they are big enough to fund their own structures, Wales is not. This year, Cytûn is setting a deficit budget, but the reserves will cover it.

Cytûn's officers are working on encouraging local groups to be more closely in touch with the centre. A sponsoring body for local Ecumenical Partnerships is being discussed; this would relate to an Enabling group drawn from all the churches in Cytûn and from other associated groups. This enabling group would also be able to give advice, drawn from its wide contacts, to the board of Cytûn.

ii. Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith relations (QCCIR).

Catherine James has arranged for Robin Bennett, clerk of QCCIR, to meet Aled Edwards of Cytûn to discuss ecumenical and interfaith matters in Wales. We hope that our new QCCIR representative will also be able to come to the meeting. QCCIR will be meeting in North Wales in June.

*Catherine James
Deborah Rowlands
Co-clerks*