



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 27 October 2012 at Lampeter

2012.35 Opening Worship and Welcome

The last paragraph of Advices and Queries has been read in our opening worship.

We are pleased to welcome 30 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales: Ros Morley, Frances Voelcker, Del Yale

Mid Wales: Liz Butler, Dave Butler

South Wales: Jane Harries

Southern Marches: Peter Hussey

Glynis Florence and Catherine James have been appointed to act as Elders.

2012.36 *Calon and The Friend*

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

2012.37 Workshop – ‘Being a Quaker today’

During the morning we have enjoyed participating in a workshop as part of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust project *Celebrating the Quaker Way in Wales*. The workshop has enabled us to write pieces to contribute to the book, which we hope can be used for outreach and also as a spiritual resource. We thank the facilitators for their work.

2012.38 Financial and Trustees’ matters

Our trustees have met today, and report that the grant from Britain Yearly Meeting is increased by 2%, and our preliminary budget for 2013 is also increased by 2%. We always keep enough reserves to allow for the possibility that the grant from Britain Yearly Meeting is not forthcoming. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant is a separate restricted budget. The four area meetings will be asked to contribute at the same level as this year.

2012.39 Simultaneous translation in Meeting of Friends in Wales

We affirm our policy of providing simultaneous translation at our meetings. We agree that we are willing to provide financial provision for this. We encourage our translator to ask for all his expenses. We ask our Arrangements Committee to ensure translation is available at each meeting, using a local qualified translator if our current translator is not available.

2012.40 CYTÛN report

Deborah Rowlands, our representative on the board of Cytûn Trustees, reported that Cytûn Trustees have set up a small group to consider the scope and focus of a study following on the consultation that took place during 1994-6 (Wales: a Moral Society?) on social issues particularly affecting Wales.

2012.41 The Gathering (Covenanted Churches in Wales)

Christine Trevett and Jules Montgomery represented us at this event, organised by Cytûn to launch the next stage in the renewed commitment to working together of the five covenanted churches (Anglican, Covenanting Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Reformed Church). Jules was particularly impressed by the transcending of denominational differences, the even gender spread, the smooth bilingualism and the sense of respect for diversity. We prayerfully support the Covenanted Churches in their endeavours.

2012.42 The National Eisteddfod, Vale of Glamorgan 2012

Christine Trevett and Janet Rees have reported on Friends' presence in the Cytûn tent, where they worked with the other churches in running the hospitality, and took responsibility for preparing and overseeing the Quiet Corner. Their report offers helpful suggestions for those doing this work in Denbigh next year; and recounts illuminating 'Eisteddfod Encounters'. We are encouraged that the Cytûn tent is now established as an interdenominational welcoming place.

2012.43 The Royal Welsh Show 2012

This was the first year that we had appointed a representative to the Cytûn marquee at the Show. John and Bridget Senior had attended the planning meeting and were present for two afternoons during the week of the Show. John thought that our display material and literature was perhaps too overtly Quaker, as the pictures chosen for display did not draw attention to denominations; also that the quiet corner was hidden and little used. John's report gives useful suggestions for next year. We hope to continue our presence at the Show, and to build on what has already been achieved. One Friend has been invited to be a chaplain at the Show. We encourage and support any Friend who feels led to do this work. We thank John and Bridget for the report and the work involved.

2012.44 Living the Quaker Way (Pales – 21st July)

Julia Aspden gave a brief report: 35 Friends enjoyed meeting Ben Pink Dandelion, whose talk went from the very early Seekers after Truth to modern Quakers.

2012.45 Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Project, *Celebrating the Quaker Way in Wales*

Deborah Rowlands reported on progress to date. Next month the Quaker Book Centre will feature our DVD in their notices to meetings. The editors of the book already have some material, and will have some more as a product of this morning's workshop. More contributions can still be sent, but the final deadline is Christmas.

2012.46 Wales, her institutions and ourselves

We have had a discussion on our identity as Quakers in Wales and our relationship to institutions in Wales. We have heard that advocacy is now part of the remit of Communications Department in Friends House. We feel we need to strengthen our voice as Welsh Quakers in Britain Yearly Meeting. We are greatly concerned by the increasing militarisation of Wales, which is increased by the lack of employment in the country. We have a number of questions: Where do our testimonies lead us? Where can we strengthen our influence? What do we say as Quakers in Wales about creating a sustainable society?

It is suggested that we appoint a small group to consider what we should focus on, and we ask our Nominations Committee to bring three or four names, including that of a Young Friend, to our next meeting. We ask our clerks to draw up guidelines for this group.

2012.47 The 'cuts' in Wales

Further to minute 2011.19 (Effects of government cuts to benefits and public services), we have received minutes from Lampeter, Llandrindod and Pales, and Wrexham Meetings. We have received few specific facts, possibly because of the difficulty of obtaining information. With regard to disability benefits, it seems that applicants need better information before they apply. The situation of powerlessness for applicants is a demeaning process. We encourage local and area meetings to continue to monitor the effects of the cuts and to send minutes with as detailed facts and/or experience as possible. A full discussion will be held when more information is available.

2012.48 Quaker Life Representative Council Report

Liz Butler has given us her impressions of the Council held in October. The theme was Deepening the life of the Spirit through Service. The speakers spoke of their spiritual journeys, how they had been influenced by others, and how we may influence other people. We thank Liz for this.

2012.49 Meeting for Sufferings

Dave Butler reported on the meeting held on 6th October.

Commemoration of the First World War is coming up, and it was felt very important that the Quaker point of view should be discussed in local and area meetings, and that we should publicise our ideas. There will be helpful information coming to local and area meetings from Friends House. We ask our clerks to discuss with the Welsh Language Advisory Group the possibility of provision of documents in Welsh.

A Framework for Action is coming to the end of its five years, and will be reassessed.

West Cumbria Area Meeting had sent a minute about the safe disposal of nuclear waste, and we heard a letter that had been sent from the Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings to the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Meeting for Sufferings heard that the cost of registering premises for civil partnerships varies from one area to another. Information can be sent to Jane Dawson at Friends House.

We thank Dave for his report.

2012.50 Minutes and data protection

It was brought to the clerks' attention that a report on the website held full contact details for a Friend who had not given her permission for these details to be publicised. We agree that our minutes will not hold such details without permission, and we ask local and area meetings to ensure that material submitted for the website adheres to this agreement.

2012.51 Arms Trade Negotiations: letter to MPs

Christine Trevett emailed every Wales MP on our behalf about the negotiation process for an Arms Trade Treaty. There were three responses, together with a list of MPs who signed Early Day Motion 93.

2012.52 Arrangements for 2013

Our Arrangements Committee has made the following arrangements for meetings in 2013, to which we agree:

23rd February at Aberystwyth

22nd June at The Pales

26th October – venue to be arranged.

2012.15 Nominations and Appointments

(i) Between meetings appointment:

Christine Trevett and Jules Montgomery to represent Friends at the Covenanting Churches Gathering, October 13th, Aberystwyth.

(ii) At her request, we release Viv Streets from her position as trustee. We thank her for the work she has done on our behalf.

At her request, we release Lynn Moseley from her position as our representative on the Christian Aid Committee, and thank her for her work.

(iii) Our Nominations Committee bring the following names:

To serve as Trustee until 31.12.2015 – Frank Brown

Ro attend the Outreach Conference 18-20 January at High Leigh, Hertfordshire – Rhian Parry

Poster Advisory Group – Roger Holloway, Donald Saunders, Martin Morley. (convenor?)

To serve as co-clerk until 31.12.2015 – Ros Morley

These names being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed.

(iv) The search group bring the name of Catherine James to serve on our Nominations Committee until 31.12.2015. This name being acceptable, our Friend is appointed.

(v) We ask our Nominations Committee to find the following:

Two Friends to serve as trustees, one until 31.12.2013 and one until 31.12.2015.

One Friend to serve on Arrangements Committee until 31.12.2015

One Friend to serve on Publications Committee until 31.12.2015

(vi) We ask the search group agreed at this Meeting to find one Friend to serve on Nominations Committee until 31.12.2015

(vii) We note that Sarah Nightingale Davey has been appointed by Southern Marches Area Meeting as Children and Young People's Work Advocate to serve until 31.12.2013.

(viii) We ask North Wales Area Meeting to appoint a Friend to represent Quakers at the Eisteddfod planning meetings, to organise a rota for the Cytûn tent and to arrange the Quiet Corner, should Friends have charge of it.

Christine Trevett, Julia Aspden

Clerks