



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 25 February 2012 at Cemmaes Road

2012.01 Opening Worship and Welcome

We are pleased to welcome 29 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, Frances Voelcker

Mid Wales: David Utting

South Wales: Jane Harries

Southern Marches: Peter Hussey

Catherine James and Tom Brown have been appointed to act as Elders.

2012.02 *Calon and The Friend*

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

2012.03 Meeting for Sufferings

Dave Butler has reported on the December Meeting for Sufferings, and Stevie Krayer on the February meeting. In December the major item was sustainability, following the commitment made at Yearly Meeting Gathering, and many local and area meetings are attempting to calculate their energy use in order to give Quaker Peace and Social Witness a baseline to work from. We are all encouraged to send 'sustainability stories' to the Recording Clerk's office, which can then be posted on the Britain Yearly Meeting website. Our planned central work is at risk because voluntary financial contributions from Friends are declining.

In February Meeting for Sufferings considered Radical Resistance and the State, and Advocacy; but Stevie felt that not enough time was available for Friends to exercise sufficient discernment. Yearly Meeting Gathering 2014 will be held 2-9 August, which once again clashes with the date of the National Eisteddfod. It has been suggested that an excursion might be arranged from the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath to the National Eisteddfod.

2012.04 Financial and Trustees' matters

- Frank Brown has presented our Annual Report, which we approve after agreed amendments. This will now be put on the website.
- In the absence of our Treasurer, Frank Brown has presented the accounts, which we approve.

- Clerks' expenses. By minute 07.09(ii), co-clerks were entitled to be paid £12 per month (and assistant clerk £6 per month), for expenses of paper, ink, computer use and telephone calls. We agree these payments are no longer necessary in view of the fact that our administrator does most of the printing and posting.

2012.05 Britain Yearly Meeting

Stevie Krayer has already told us that Yearly Meeting topics will be Economic Justice and Environmental Sustainability, which ties in well with today's main topic; and What it means to be a Quaker. We ask Gwen Prince to send a written report to us, and we ask our Nominations Committee to try to find a Friend who might not usually attend Yearly Meeting, who could report back to our June meeting and read Gwen's report for her.

2012.06 Welsh Poster/leaflets

Jules Montgomery, our administrator, has told us about ongoing discussions with Quaker Life regarding the production of a poster clearly relating to Welsh Quakerism. Once the Quaker Life images for 2012 are available to view, we can decide whether we want the wording translated into Welsh. We have text available in Welsh which can be used in place of direct translations. Quaker Life would not pay the production costs if we wished to use our own image.

She has also told us that the Quaker Peace and Social Witness and Living What we Believe leaflets have now been translated into Welsh. Samples will be sent to meetings with the next mailing, and more are available on request from Jules.

2012.07 Cytûn report

Deborah Rowlands has attended her first meeting as our representative on the Board. She has updated us about ongoing issues. In particular she has drawn to our attention the Cytûn presence at the Royal Welsh Show. It is suggested that we should have a regular representative to help plan the Cytûn presence. We ask our Nominations Committee to find a Friend willing to serve in this capacity for three years.

2012.08 National Eisteddfod

The Eisteddfod will be held in the Vale of Glamorgan from 4th-11th August, and South Wales Area Meeting has been asked to find a Friend to co-ordinate our presence in the Cytûn tent. Christine Trevett attended a planning meeting and told us that the plan at present is that each day's work will be assigned to a local Cytûn group. It will be possible for denominations to offer a worship option. Recently there has been a 'Quiet Corner' in the tent for which Friends have had a special concern. Catherine James pointed out that the Quiet Corner at the Royal Welsh Show was well signed and was popular. We wish the Quiet Corner to continue, understanding that it will be our responsibility.

2012.09 Celebrating the Quaker Way in Wales - update

We were delighted to have the opportunity to view the DVD, which is now completed except for the English subtitles. A copy of the DVD will be sent to each meeting and we hope Friends will enjoy it and make use of it.

Rhian Parry has updated us on plans for the book. The aim is to publish two books, one in Welsh, one in English. The theme will be the Spiritual Journeys of individual Friends. For the framework of the book, the group has taken the allegory of a river travelling from its source to the sea. Mererid Hopwood, a poet, has agreed to contribute a piece. Friends are invited to send contributions in either language to Rhian Parry by 30th July. (Rhian Parry, Tytandderwen, Pencefn, Dolgellau, LL40 2ER; barryg.allcott@btinternet.com).

2012.10 Appeal Group

Further to minutes 2011.13 and 2011.39, South Wales Area Meeting Elders and Overseers have sent a statement of corrections referring to the assessment which accompanied the appeal decision. All papers concerned with the appeal have been filed at the Recording Clerk's office.

2012.11 Publications

Further to minute 2011.04, Iwan Rhys offered to translate the Quaker Life children's book 'Quaker Meeting and Me' free of charge. Iwan felt that it was important that the wording read well in Welsh, especially as the audience is so young, and therefore has adapted the text appropriately where necessary, although the meaning is the same. Quaker Life agreed to this, and we have acknowledged it in the credits. We thank Iwan for undertaking this work.

2012.12 What is the Economy for? Finding and following a vision – Tony Weekes

Tony Weekes, who held the Ferguson Fellowship at Woodbrooke 2007-2008 and who is author of the document '*Economics and the Quaker Way*' has led us in a participative session endeavouring to understand and to find a vision for the economy. What is the economy? Are our politicians addressing the right questions? And if they are, are they addressing them in the right way? Concentration is on the economic deficit rather than the environmental deficit. There is an assumption that growth is good. Money has become the dominant theme, but there are many other elements of the economy, such as service.

Tony presented us with ten questions for discussion and suggested that we should treat sceptically the current assumptions.

How can we find ways in which, individually and as a Society, we can respond to the challenge of a global economy? We have no answers yet, but our discussion has given us much to think about and act upon.

Tony's notes are available electronically, and he will be happy to enter into email correspondence. (tony.weekes@gn.apc.org). We thank Tony for helping us to address this topic.

2012.13 Living the Quaker Way

The third of these Woodbrooke/Meeting of Friends in Wales days was held in Bala in November and was a very good day, as well as being extremely well attended, over 40 Friends being present from all over Wales. The next day will take place at Milford Haven on 17th March.

2012.14 Quaker Life Representative Council Report

Liz Butler has given us a report of the Council held in October, which focussed on Area Meetings and the process of Appreciative Inquiry. We thank Liz for this, and will file her report with these minutes.

2012.15 Nominations and Appointments

(i) Nominations

Cytûn Finance Committee – Peter Davies – to serve until 31.12.2014 (re-nomination). This name being acceptable, our Friend is appointed.

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations – Martin Plant – to serve from Yearly Meeting 2012 to Yearly Meeting 2015. This name being acceptable, we will send the nomination to Meeting for Sufferings.

Meeting for Sufferings – Dave Butler as representative, and Lynn Moseley as alternate – to serve from Yearly Meeting 2012 to Yearly Meeting 2015 . These names being acceptable, the nominations will be sent to the Assistant Recording Clerk.

(ii) Nominations requested

Co-clerk – to serve from 1.1.2013 to 31.12.2015

Cytûn International Affairs Committee (to end 2013)

Representative to meeting of United Reformed Church National Synod, 10th March in Newtown.

2012.16 Peace Academy

Meeting of Friends in Wales was consulted by the Petitions Committee of the Welsh Assembly Government about the possibility of establishing a Peace Academy for Wales. We consulted with Area Meetings, and Jane Harries drew up a composite response on our behalf. Jane has now updated us – the matter has been referred to the Assembly all-party human rights group. The findings will be shared with the Petitions Committee and with the Petitioners.

Christine Trevett, Julia Aspden
Clerks