



Minutes of Meeting of Friends in Wales, held at the Pales October 27th 2018

2018.39. Opening worship and welcome

During our opening worship part of the introduction to Chapter 24 of Quaker faith & practice has been read in English and paragraph 26.64 has been read in Welsh and English.

2018.40 Clerking today

Peter Hussey will act as co-clerk for today.

2018.41 Attendance:

We welcome 42 Friends here today as recorded on the attendance list.

AM representatives today are:

SWAM: Julia Lim

SMAM: Bridget Cherry

MWAM: John Senior

NWAM: Frank Brown and Mike Clark

Our elders for today are: Jeff Beatty and John Senior.

Our translator today is Steffan Wiliam

2018.42. Calon and *The Friend*

Michael Clark will write a report of this meeting for Calon and Julia Lim will write for the Friend.

2018.43. Minutes of record of between meetings' decisions

a) We have received the following minute from SWAM:

SWAM minute 18.60: Muslim Council for Wales

We have been informed of the request from Laura Jones of the Muslim Council of Wales for a Quaker representative to attend their annual inter-faith dinner to be held in Cardiff on 25.09.18.

The Council are also keen to include Quakers in their inter-faith network.

Anne Hosking is willing to represent Quakers at the dinner and on an on-going basis alongside her Cardiff City & the Bay Cytûn role.

We are pleased to accept Anne's offer.

We ask our Clerks to inform the Clerks of SWAM and of Meeting of Friends in Wales so that this link with the Muslim Council can be noted, and perhaps built upon in other areas.

Signed after the Meeting

Leela Attfield - Clerk this time

b) Our Friend Jane Harries attended the meeting of Embrace the Middle East on our behalf

2018.44. Releases, nominations and appointments

a) Releases:

i) Ann Boot has asked for release from Nominations Committee; we accept her wish for release thank her for her service and we appoint Christine Trevett and Jane Harries as a search group to find a replacement from SWAM the appointment to be made by the between meetings process.

ii) David Utting requests release from his post as a trustee from 1st November 2018; we agree to his release and thank him for his service.

b) Nominations:

i) Our search group, appointed by minute 2018.38, brings forward the name of Shazia Jamshed of NWAM for appointment on our nominations group. This name being acceptable she is hereby appointed. The search group brings the additional name of Ruth Moore Williams of NWAM for appointment to the Meeting of Friends in Wales nominations group. This name being acceptable, she is hereby appointed.

ii) Nominations brought by the nominations group:

a) focus group:

Peter Hussey SM 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

Alun Williams MW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

David Harries SW 01.01.19 to 31.12.20

b) trustees:

Gordon Blackburn SW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

Huw Meredith Owen NW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

c) clerk to trustees:

Deborah Rowlands SW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

d) laser group:

David Harries SW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

e) treasurer:

Martin Hughes NW 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

These names being acceptable, they are hereby appointed.

c) Minute from Focus Group and Trustees:

A combined meeting of our Trustees and the Wales Focus Group has sent the following Minute:

Nominations:

We have recognised difficulties in the way in which our Nominations group have worked. We had expressed the hope that each MFW Nominations group member would develop close links with their AM Nominations Committees which has not yet happened. We now ask each AM Nominations committee, with the possible exception of SMAQM who only have 3 wholly Welsh meetings, to bring forward a name from the AM Nominations committee to be a link person with MFW.

We thank the group for their work and send this minute to the four Area Meetings for their consideration.

d) Nominations sought:

Assistant clerk immediately and to 31.12.2020

One member of the resources group from 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

Deputy treasurer from 01.01.19 to 31.12.21

One Trustee to serve immediately to 31.12.20

e) We agree that applications for the use of the training budget for roles within MFW should be decided by the clerks of MFW, in consultation with the clerk of Trustees, the clerk of Focus Group and the treasurer.

2018.45. Focus Group and Trustees Meeting: Future direction and governance of MFW

The Questionnaire asking for Friend's views of the future direction and governance of MFW has had some 20 respondents, which is approximately 1% of Welsh Friends. Respondents were mainly positive and accept that MFW is continuing while changes suggested relate to organisation and communication.

Interesting ideas have been proposed, including the use of small geographically based groups that could be charged with task and finish pieces of work.

There is a lot of concern about the balance of business and spirituality, but appreciation of the improvements that have taken place in recent meetings. Proposals have been suggested for our website and for other uses of IT, for developing an exciting programme of speakers, workshops and events.

Deborah Rowlands has offered to convene a task and finish group to consider the direction of MFW through the choice of topics, venues and pattern of future meetings. Rhian Parry, Christine Trevett and Gethin Evans are hereby appointed to this group.

2018.46. The Pales group

We have been welcomed to the Pales today by members of the Pales Development Group. They have mounted a display showing the direction their plans are taking, and we have been told something of their progress. The building has a history of being a base for service to the local community which is no longer appropriate, so new ways of providing service to a much wider community are now sought. A vibrant programme of talks and events has been undertaken, and the planned development of the site will facilitate greater use. This historic building, the oldest Meeting House in Wales in continuous use, is a resource not just for SMAQM but for the whole of Wales and Britain Yearly Meeting.

The Pales Management group are to launch a 'Friends of the Pales' scheme in the next weeks. Individuals will be able to become a friend for £40 a year and thereby support the continuation of this valuable resource.

2018.47. Gethin Evans:

Gethin Evans has spoken to us today on 'Ein gwrol ryfelwyr': Crynwyr yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf / Our Quaker dead: Quakers in the First World War.

He has given us a new view of the position of Quakers in the First World War. Many Quakers joined the military; many died. The declaration by Meeting for Sufferings of the 7th August 1914 shows that there was at least ambiguity about the attitude of Sufferings to the war. Those Quakers who joined the military felt the Inner Light guided them to join, as the conscientious objectors felt equally guided. It was this understanding of the sense of guidance which kept Yearly Meeting from schism. Unity was about liberty of conscience.

After the war, meetings needed to draw together the opposing ideas through an understanding of the need for love, gentleness and tenderness.

In our public records there should be acknowledgement of those Quakers who in both World War One and World War Two served within the military establishment, some of whose work also led to developments in medical practice.

We thank Gethin Evans for his work in helping us to a better understanding of our history as Quakers.

We agree to send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

2018.48. Funding for translation of the 'Peace Week for Schools' project

We support the translation of the 'Peace Week' pack for schools as we fully understand the need for this in Welsh as well as English: many schools in Wales teach either in Welsh or bilingually, and it is therefore very hard work for teachers if the materials are in English only. Translated and on the teachers' website 'Hwb', it would be available for all to download for free. Funding will be needed for both translation and typesetting the pack.

We send this minute to the Recording clerk and to the four Area Meetings in Wales.

2018.49. Reports

We have received the following reports both via the email group and on paper at this meeting:

- National Eisteddfod Lecture 2018;
- The National Eisteddfod 2018;
- The Royal Welsh Show 2018;
- CYP;
- Quaker Life Representative Council;
- Thoughts on Cultural Differences.

We thank all those who have worked on these matters, either as volunteers at events or as writers of these reports. We hope that the National Eisteddfod lecture will be translated so that it is more widely available. We commend the paper on Cultural Diversity to our Local Meetings, as a resource which opens us to some of the live issues in Wales today.

2018.50.Dates and venues for future meetings in 2019:

23 February 2019: Aberystwyth meeting house:
Christine Trevett leads us on what we in Wales want to offer
the new edition of Qf&p

22 June 2019: Milford Haven Meeting House: Aled Eurig

26 October 2019: Newtown Methodist Church.
(Jane Harries on Peace work in Wales)

Signed:

Catherine James
Clerk at this time

Peter Hussey
Co-clerk at this time