



**Minutes of the Meeting held at
Milford Haven Meeting House
22nd June 2019**

2019.12 Addoliad agoriadol, / Opening worship,

During our opening worship number 32 of *Advices & Queries* has been read in Welsh and in English by Rhian Parry.

2019.13 Croeso a nodi presenoldeb/ Welcome and attendance

We welcome 28 Friends here today as recorded on the attendance list.

Area Meeting representatives today are:

South Wales AM (SWAM): Anne Hosking and Jess Morgan

Southern Marches AM (SMAM): Jeff Beatty

Mid Wales AM (MWAM): Gethin Evans and Sue Shreeve

North Wales AM (NWAM): Ruth Moore Williams, Frances Voelcker & Martin Hughes

Our elders for today are: Gordon Blackburn and Gethin Evans

Our translator today is: Steffan Wiliam

2019.14. Calon & The Friend

Sue Shreeve will write a report of this meeting for Calon and Anne Hoskings will write for *the Friend*.

2019.15. Cofnodion penderfyniadau rhwng cyfarfodydd / Minutes of record of between meetings' decisions:

- a) On our behalf, Catherine James attended the 'Te Croeso' at the Independents' Conference in Rhydymain early in June.
- b) Statement by the Welsh Assembly: Climate Emergency. In consultation with the clerk of Focus group, the co-clerks wrote to the First Minister to congratulate him on declaring a climate emergency and to speak of our hopes for the future. A copy of the letter is available here today. Copies have been sent to Chris Walker and Olivia Hanks, staff members on the Economic and Sustainability programme at Friends House.

2019.16 Cofnodion a derbyniwyd ers ein cyfarfod diwethaf / Minutes received since our last meeting:

We have received the following minute from Meeting for Sufferings in response to our minute 2019.08:

At a Meeting for Sufferings held 6 April 2019: MfS/19/04/09 Britain's withdrawal from the European Union

We receive part of minute 2019.08 of Meeting of Friends in Wales held at Aberystwyth on Saturday 23 February 2019 which contains a statement that Meeting of Friends in Wales have agreed. It draws attention to the importance of peace within Europe and in the UK and shares distress about the degree of inequality that is evident in our society today. We unite with this statement.

We are aware of the great turmoil that currently exists in the political spectrum and are reminded that whatever the political outcome, we will continue to live lives that focus on love, both of our fellow beings and of the planet, and to seek to follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit that may be found within each of us.

Anne Ullathorne, Clerk / Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk

- a) We have received the following minute from Cardiff Local Meeting: part of minute 19.42 of Cardiff Quaker Meeting House Steering Group

We ask our Assistant Clerk to forward the following minute to the Clerk of Meeting of Friends in Wales: *A Quaker Presence in the capital city of Wales*

Over the past five years, Cardiff Friends have been considering the future development of our Meeting House, prompted by the need for some essential maintenance. South Wales Area Meeting Trustees encouraged us to be ambitious in our considerations because our location means that we represent a Quaker presence in the capital city of Wales. Renting and hiring out rooms during the week means that we have the potential to provide a regular income to Area Meeting to support our Quaker work across South Wales, but only if we increase the capacity and quality of our facilities.

Cardiff Meeting have a vision of expanding our support for community groups by transforming our building. Improvements have been planned to include a more welcoming entrance, new counselling rooms, more accessibility, and better kitchen and toilet facilities. We have been successful in acquiring planning permission and funding for the next phase. This is our plan A which is modest in its scope.

However more recently it has come to our attention that the new owners of the office block next door to the Meeting House are intending to redevelop their site with a possible scheme of an 18 storey apartment tower. We now need to consider the implications of this for our building and our worshipping community. One approach is to see this as an opportunity to do something bigger and bolder, which is the encouragement we have received from Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting and Paul Grey, CEO of Friends House Hospitality. Friends from Cardiff's Steering Group, together with Huw Davies (Manager of Britain Yearly Meeting Property

Support Project) have visited Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield Quaker Centres to explore their business models, which include professional management and commercial venue space as well as rooms for Quaker and community use. We hope that some of our site may also be suitable for social housing.

We are currently entering into a more detailed feasibility stage of this radical option in partnership with a potential developer; this arrangement is not yet a formal commitment by SWAM or Cardiff Meeting to proceed with any proposal which the developer may, in time, put forward. We would welcome opportunities to liaise with Meeting of Friends in Wales to enable integration of possible overlapping future plans or hopes for Quaker witness in the Welsh capital, as well as your prayerful support for the project and everyone involved. We would welcome suggestions from Meeting of Friends in Wales as to how liaison could be maintained.

We will consider this matter under item 8, Future developments.

2019.17 Enwebiadau a phenodiadau / Nominations and appointments:

Nominations sought:

- i) Co clerk to serve from 01.01.20 to 31.12.22
 - ii) Focus group representative from North Wales to serve from 01.01.20 to 31.12.22
 - iii) Resources Group: two members to serve from 01.01. 20 to 31.12.22
 - iv) Trustee from mid Wales
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- a) Group to organise a residential meeting for October 2021.
 - b) Search group to find two new members of nominations committee (from Southern marches and Mid Wales AMs preferably) to serve from 01.01.20 to 31.12.22
Sue Shreeve and Deborah Rowlands are appointed to be a search group for two new members of nominations committee and are asked to bring names to our October meeting

2019.18 Jane Harries A oes Heddwch? – Heddychwyr yng Nghymru: yn y gorffennol, y presennol a'r dyfodol.

Jane Harries: A oes Heddwch? – Peacemakers in Wales: past, present and future

Jane Harries from Bridgend Meeting has spoken about aspects of Wales' Peace heritage as discovered through the Wales for Peace project and current Peace work.

Jane spoke about

- Remembering, for the sake of Peace
- Opposing War
- Offering Sanctuary

- Supporting Equality and Human Rights
- Solidarity with others
- Inspiring future generations.

Through the Peace Schools project, Jane and others have worked with young people in schools in Wales to consider these topics.

Although Wales has a rich heritage of Peace work, we need to continue to focus on this as opposing influences are strong.

For example

- The colour and excitement of military occasions
- The influence of violent video games
- Opportunities to gain financially from the business of war, like arms trading and military training

We were reminded of the need for all of us to do what we can to promote Peace, and Jane provided a sheet of suggestions of small actions we might take. Friends reminded us of a number of current initiatives Friends are involved in and the need to continually promote Peace.

2019.19. Adroddiad blynyddol yr ymddiriedolwyr / Trustees' annual report

The trustees' annual report has been circulated by email and there are paper copies here today. Deborah Rowlands, clerk to trustees, has spoken to the report and to finance. She drew attention to our relationship with Area Meetings. Our treasurer Martin Hughes spoke to the accounts. We receive this report which will be forwarded to the charities commission and other bodies.

2019.20 Datblygiadau'r dyfodol / Future developments

The co-clerks and trustees are in discussion with Paul Parker (recording clerk) concerning the relationship between Meeting of Friends in Wales (MFW) and Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) and about possible developments in the future. The co-clerks will be discussing the Memorandum of Understanding between MFW and BYM and trustees will be discussing employment and post vibrancy arrangements.

Deborah Rowlands spoke to the report from trustees (Trustees' minute 2019.11). We are all looking to simplify our structures and clerks and trustees will discuss this in September with area meeting clerks.

We have heard part of the report from Sandra Berry (director of Woodbrooke) and Paul Parker (recording clerk) about taking forward the joint vibrancy programme and localised support. This endorses the aim of having a local development worker within reach of each meeting.

We have considered the minute from Cardiff Friends. (Cardiff minute 19.42). Cardiff local meeting has been looking to the future in the light of local building developments around them. They are looking for partners and are exploring the needs of other Friends and meetings. They would like to hear from others what use for example Meeting of Friends in Wales might make of space within their future developments. They are open to ideas. We hope Friends will consider creatively how we might be involved. We welcome the idea that Cardiff might be helpful as devolution is likely to increase in the future. As Britain Yearly Meeting is considering the possible dispersal of its work round the UK, Cardiff might well be part of its planning. Timescale is important: balancing is difficult between local financial constraints and a vision for the future. All we do in Wales has to consider the Well Being of Future Generations. We have also declared a Climate Emergency which involves our whole living and being: we will need to consider travel and devolving more locally. We need to run our business more efficiently and to find new ways of working. We ask Deborah Rowlands as clerk to trustees and Gordon Blackburn to liaise with Cardiff meeting, and ask trustees to discuss the matter with Paul Parker, so that we all work in harmony.

2019.21 Adroddiadau / Reports:

The Cytûn and QLRC reports have been circulated via email and printed copies are available today.

a). Cytûn: Gethin Evans has reported on meetings of Cytûn trustees, and speaks of the impressive work which the policy officer does for the churches with the Welsh Assembly Government. Finance is becoming an issue which needs to be addressed in the near future.

We need to pay attention to our relationship with Cytûn. The central organisation is not strong. We need to remain part of ecumenical work in Wales. BYM are reviewing the Quaker Committee for Interfaith Relations. Clerks have been asked for comments but have not yet responded.

b) Quaker Life Representative Council: Angela Ormerod has reported on the meeting in April – ‘Building Inclusive Quaker Communities’, a paper which will be helpful to us all when we consider a similar topic next year.

c) Ail ysgrifennu ein llyfr disgyblaeth – symud ymlaen / Rewriting our book of discipline – an update

The Book of Discipline Revision committee has met for the first time in London. The weekend was spent mainly in preliminary exploration of the task ahead. This will be searching rather than swift or easy. Meetings will be held in different venues throughout BYM – Scarborough, Edinburgh and Woodbrooke this year.

In Wales, we have begun our exploration through our workshop at our last meeting, and further workshops and meetings on this subject will take place. A workshop has been

arranged in Wrexham for the North East cluster of North Wales area meeting for this July.

2019.21 Cofnod oddi wrth yr ymddiriedolwyr /Minute from the trustees

We have received the following minute from our trustees (Trustees minute 2019.18):

We recommend that Huw Meredith Owen (North Wales) be appointed as a further signatory and on line authoriser for the Meeting of Friends in Wales bank account, to ease the operation of the account. We agree to this request.

2019.22. Dyddiadau a manau cyfarfod yn 2020 a 2021 / Dates and venues for meetings in 2020 and 2021

February 22, 2020: Lampeter

June 28, 2020: Bangor

October, 24 2020: Abergavenny

For 2021, Machynlleth has agreed to host us in February at Glantwymyn.

Cardiff meeting has expressed an interest in hosting MFW in June 2021; we hope this will be possible.

We hope the residential weekend in October will incorporate a business meeting for MFW.

Signed:

Catherine James
Co-clerk at this time

Tricia Jones
Co-clerk at this time

Jane Harries
Assistant clerk