

Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire

July 18th 2020

Held on Zoom internet conferencing platform

Representatives

CYAM: Ruth McTighe, Pauline Frykman

Craven and Settle AM: Evelyn Shire, David Olver, David Heslop and Sylvia Boyes

Leeds AM: Barbara Parry, Una Parker and John Young

York AM: Barbara Penney, Catherine Margham

1. Meeting for Worship

During our opening worship we have heard read Quaker faith & practice 25.07.

2. Welcome by the Clerks

Our clerks have welcomed us to this, the first meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire to be held online, and have explained the necessary adaptations to the conduct of our meeting. We note that 59 Friends have registered in advance to attend today's meeting.

3. Annual Reports

a. Annual Report of QiY Trustees,

Barbara Windle, the clerk of Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees has introduced the annual report and accounts of Quakers in Yorkshire for 2019.

We note that while trustees are a strong team, there remains one vacancy yet to be filled even after we take the nominations to be considered today. The accounts (examined by Grozier Jones of Doncaster) and annual report for the Charity Commission have been completed and approved by Trustees.

Turning to current activities, Trustees report that due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, they expect a reduction in dividend payments from the endowment funds which will

reduce the money available to be spent on the funds' various objectives. They do not, however, see any cause for concern over the financial viability of Quakers in Yorkshire. Trustees have agreed a one year repayment holiday on the loan given by QIY to Glenthorne in the light of the loss of income to the hospitality sector in 2020. The lockdown due to the pandemic has also resulted in a reduction of other activities, notably in outreach. The Adult School Union's bequest also remains available to support events enabling meetings and individual adults to deepen their understanding of Quaker thought and work.

Although much of our planned U19s work could not go ahead as intended, Barbara spoke of her admiration for the way in which the U19 volunteer teams had responded by making online provision available instead, and we look forward to hearing more about all the U19 events in their reports at our January meeting.

We thank our trustees for their report and ongoing work to support Quakers in Yorkshire and our activities.

b. Annual Report of Glenthorne

Roy Love has introduced the annual report of Glenthorne.

Glenthorne had a successful year in 2019 and entered 2020 with substantial forward bookings and high optimism with an operational surplus of £1,962,000 and 72.8% occupancy rate. Glenthorne was well used by a variety of Quaker meetings and events as well as other groups. Meeting for Worship is held regularly, organised by the Friend in Residence. Bursary funds are well used to supply respite breaks with a special fund to support refugees and asylum seekers.

Following the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff with the exception of the manager were placed on furlough, with their wages made up to the full amount above the 80% funding of the Government's job retention scheme.

Roy has reported that Glenthorne plans to reopen on 7 August and bookings are around 60-70%. Many bookings have been moved to next year rather than cancelled. There is

considerable uncertainty in the financial forecasts but the reserves are likely to be very depleted. Bookings for early next year remain quite low at present and Glenthorne trustees are keen to encourage bookings, including the use of Glenthorne as a self-catering venue over the closed period.

We thank Roy for his report on behalf of Glenthorne Trustees.

4. Deep Adaptation

Jilani Cordelia Prescott grew up in a Quaker background and is an advocate for the Deep Adaptation movement. This is a project of the social scientist Jem Bendell, Professor of Sustainability Leadership in the University of Cumbria.

Bendell has explored the work of many climate scientists and asked what could be done in face of the serious threat to the planet from climate change. Bendell asks us to consider the four Rs - Resilience (of communities), Relinquishment (what can we do without, such as the growth model of the economy), Restoration (of damaged environments, rebuilding communities) and Reconciliation/Reconnection (what could I make peace with that would lessen human suffering? What can you do to make peace with others of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds?) Jilani has shared with us some of the rich and varied ideas that individuals and groups have offered under these headings - and these will be made available on the QiY website.

In a recent article, *The Collapse of Ideology and the End of Escape*, Bendell offered the idea that environmentalists and climate activists are ESCAPE-ING our situation: he considers the wide range of personal often selfish demands we tend as individuals to impose under the headings: Entitlement, Surety, Control, Autonomy, Progress, Exceptionalism.

Is it possible to let go of our individualistic requirements in order to approach the current crisis with greater equanimity. Could we relinquish our aversion to impermanence and death?

Jilani invited us to discuss some of these questions in Zoom breakout rooms.

The groups felt that the issues facing us to were overwhelming, and that we were wrestling with an enormous complexity of interdependent issues. Some felt feelings of helplessness and

powerlessness, and anger at the world leaders, but others felt reluctant to relinquish hope - especially the hope that things will change. There was a tension between wanting to act and to let go of things we cherish. We also felt strongly aware of our own privilege. There is a wide range of feelings, but we were also reminded of Fox's injunction to 'walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone...'

We thank Jilani for joining us today and for her stimulating and challenging presentation.

5. Nominations

a. Between meetings decision by Trustees

As a consequence of cancelling our meeting in April 2020, a nomination for a parent Governor to be Board of Governors at the Mount School could not be considered by Quakers in Yorkshire in session. Following discussions between the clerk to the Board of Governors, the co-clerks of Quakers in Yorkshire and Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees it was concluded that an interim appointment was required in the best interests of the school. Accordingly, Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees appointed Stephanie Hogg to serve as a parent Governor on the Mount School Board of Governors until this meeting.

b. Appointments for this time.

- i. The Board of Governors of the Mount School forwards the name of Stephannie Hogg to serve as a parent Governor from this meeting until 31st December 2023 (1st term continued following an interim appointment).
This nomination being acceptable, Stephannie Hogg is appointed accordingly.
- ii. Our nominations committee brings forward the nomination of Ruth Woodhead to serve as a Gelnthorne Trustee.
This nomination being acceptable, Ruth Woodhead is appointed accordingly.
- iii. We receive nominations from Area Meetings for appointment by Quakers in Yorkshire as follows:

From York Area Meeting:

- Chris Love to complete Roy Love's term on QIY Nominations, to serve from now until December 2021
- Elizabeth Bryan to serve on QIY Nominations from January 2021 until December 2023 (1st term).
- Meg Forrest to serve as a QIY Trustee from Jan 2021 -Dec 2023 (2nd term);

From Leeds Area Meeting:

- Patricia Gerwat to serve a QIY Trustee from this meeting until December 2022 (1st term)

These nominations being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed accordingly.

6. Closing minute and Notices

There being no further matters before us at this time, we conclude, intending to meet next online via Zoom on Saturday 17th October 2020 should nothing occur to prevent.

Notices:

1. The co-clerks and arrangements committee would welcome any feedback on how this meeting was on Zoom, and particularly if there are any adjustments that we should consider before our October meeting.
2. Photo - if you do not want to be visible in the photograph, please turn your video off. If you do not want to have your name visible, then please email Gavin who will blur your name out in the photo.
3. We are intending the 17 October meeting to be held in two parts with a break so that Friends may have lunch between a morning and afternoon Zoom sessions. As with this meeting, we will ask Friends to register in advance to receive the Zoom meeting links.
4. Yorkshire Friends are asked to consider offering support to the Quaker Tapestry to see them through the period of closure of the museum at Kendal. Details can be found on the back page of the July Newsletter.