**Quakers in Yorkshire**

**Group to Reinvigorate and Simplify Structures and Processes (GRASP)**

**Minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2020 by Zoom**

**Present:** David Bunney (CY), Alison Clarke (York), Tim Herrick (S&B, Jim Ledwidge (BWY), Tracey Martin (Leeds), David Olver (C&K & Convenor), Rosie Roberts (co-opted to link with young people), Phyllis Wicks (P&H), Barbara Windle (QiY Trustees)

**We began our meeting with worship.**

**We agree the agenda for today.**

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of our meeting held on 24 August 2020 have been circulated.

**2. Round up**

We have heard from members about developments regarding both simplification and the lock-down.

On the consideration of simplification, not much has happened since out last meeting. It is difficult for many Friends to engage with simplification when the first priority is to deal with the COVID-19 restrictions and implications.

Most meetings are now worshipping either physically or virtually. Zoom meetings are being widely used, particularly for worship and committees. Blended meetings have been used successfully where meetings have the technology.

**3. QiY wide virtual meetings**

We have received proposals from Jim and Rosie to organise a virtual workshop on the theme of nominations. The aim would be to bring together Friends for networking and consultation. The hope is that those attending are involved in, or interested in, the nominations process and can share issues. This could help nominations committees fill the wide range of roles needed to keep Quakerism flourishing in both local and area meetings.

We warmly endorse the proposal to a QiY zoom nominations workshop on **Saturday 21 November 2020** from 10.30 am to noon. We are pleased that Jim and Rosie are willing to organise the event. They have our full support.

We have discussed the expected outcomes and the questions to be put to those attending the workshop.

We will each identify who to talk to in our Area Meeting so that named Friends can be invited. The intention is to invite 3 or 4 from each AM, with an ideal maximum of 25 participants.

If the workshop is successful then we could distribute outcomes to AMs and LMs with ideas for re-invigorating the nominations process.

**4. Final report**

We receive the draft contents of the final report we are due to publish.

We note that the report will not be the end of our work.

We agree the outline contents, but it needs an Executive Summary at the start. David will prepare a first draft. The aim might be to publish the report at the start of next year.

We agree to try to each produce one bullet point Recommendation for each of the following sections and discuss them at our next meeting:

1. Filling roles and the nominations process
2. Simplification at Local Meeting level – opportunities for reinvigoration
3. Simplification at Area Meeting level – opportunities for reinvigoration
4. Collaboration and partnerships between area meetings

**6. Date of next meeting**

We agree to meet next by Zoom on **Monday 9 November 2020** from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

David Olver

5 October 2020