**Quakers in Yorkshire**

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

**Minutes of meeting held on 30 November 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.**

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of our meeting held on 9 November 2020 have been circulated.

**2. GRASP Nominations Workshop**

We have heard that the online nominations workshop held on Saturday 21 November was attended by 25 Friends. We have received a summary of contributions.

It was a very successful workshop and generated considerable sharing of ideas and willingness to work together to enhance the nominations process. The feedback has been very positive. The reasons for its success included limiting to 25 participants (one zoom screen) and limiting to 90 minutes. Care was taken in preparation by making connections with participants.

Three suggestions have been made as follow up:

(1) A document designed for those who are new to the nomination process, called “The work of nominations committees” to encourage greater participation in nominations.

(2) A short talking-heads video designed to inspire and inform Friends about nominations.

(3) An email support list for those involved with safeguarding. The workshop thought that this was an obvious subject for trial sharing across AMs. Ruth McTighe (Central Yorkshire AM) has offered to host the list.

We endorse the suggestions and particularly thank Jim and Rosie for producing (1) and (2) above. We look forward to seeing the drafts.

**3. Local Development Worker**

Further to the discussion at our last meeting, we have heard about the online sessions attended by Alison and Jim. They were inspiring and informative.

The advert for all four new LDWs is expected to appear in The Friend early next month. We agree to circulate the advert to local meetings in our AMs, encouraging Clerks to pass it on to anyone who might be interested in the Yorkshire LDW.

**4. Round up**

We have heard of latest developments in our areas.

**5. Final report**

David has briefed us on the writing of the final report. He has completed a first draft and plans to circulate it for comments by the end of this week.

We agree that each of us will read it over the next month and respond by 1 January 2021.

**6. Recommendations in GRASP report**

We have continued the discussion at our last meeting, particularly on the structure of the recommendations.

We agree that we will base our recommendations on the current headings. We will include a section on what we can offer in the way of help.

We agree that we ought to offer a number of potentially quick ‘wins’ to give confidence as well as offer longer term recommendations.

Meetings need reminding that they do not need to do things on their own. Sometimes strategic thinking is needed to solve long term operational issues.

We agree that some quotations can be helpful and will break up the text. Quotes from Young Friends would be good.

**7. Date of next meeting**

We agree to meet next by Zoom on **Monday 11 January 2021 from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.**

David Olver

30 November 2020