**Quakers in Yorkshire**

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

**Minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2021 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 (co-opted).

**We began our meeting with worship.**

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of our meeting held on 30 November 2020 have been circulated.

**2. GRASP**

**(a) Membership**

Barbara helped to start GRASP and was co-opted as Clerk of QiY Trustees. She has finished this service but we warmly agree to continue to co-opted her onto GRASP.

**(b) Objectives in 2021**

We have received a paper from David O on the objectives of GRASP in 2021. This includes a blog by Paul Parker (Recording Clerk) asking “Are you ready for 2021?” and emphasising that there is work to do to re-invigorate Quakerism.

We have discussed and agree that our objectives in 2021 should be:

To stimulate initiatives to reinvigorate and simplify Yorkshire Quakerism in local and area meetings. To do this through publishing, connecting and advising, to assist and help promote collaboration and good practice.

**3. Round up**

We have heard from each of us of relevant developments in our areas.

**4. Local Development Worker**

(a) We note that BYM is advertising for four Local Development Workers to be based in Yorkshire, Scotland, East Anglia and Cumberland and the North-East. The deadline for applications in 25 January 2021.

(b) We have been asked if one member of GRASP will be part of the selection process. We agree that Alison will represent us.

(c) We have been asked to provide a group of five to test the candidates’ facilitation skills on Wednesday 24 February. We agree that David B, Jim and Tracey will be on the group. Tim will find someone from Sheffield & Balby AM (perhaps a younger Friend). We will look for a 5th Friend to complement the others before the end of the month.

**5. Simpler meetings project**

Jonathan Carmichael (BYM Simpler Meetings Project) is arranging a zoom meeting on Wednesday 27 January (7.30 pm to 8.30 pm) for London and Welsh Quaker Trustees to talk about having one charity for multiple area meetings. He has asked if GRASP wants to have an observer. We agree that David B will observe on our behalf.

**6. GRASP report**

David O circulated a draft report on 5 December 2020 and all members of the Group have reviewed and offered comments. We have received both a collated list of the substantial comments and an updated report incorporating the detailed amendments.

We have discussed the structure and length of the report. We agree to retain the current contents but use much more signposting. This is needed to assist the wide range of readers to find points which they hopefully find inspiring. We need more links and summaries of the main sections.

We agree to suggest that meetings share case-studies to illustrate examples where they have simplified structures and processes.

David O will prepare the next draft of the written report and then Jim will prepare an accompanying simple PowerPoint presentation. We hope then to produce a web version.

**7. Nominations workshop**

Thanks for Rosie and Jim for arranging and overseeing the production of a 17‑minute ‘talking-heads’ video as a follow-up from the November Nominations Workshop.

The video has been uploaded to YouTube and some of us have viewed it. We like the contents but suggest that it might have a wider audience if its was in shorter chunks or had some guidance to the contents.

We warmly endorse the video as a good example of sharing ideas. We agree to circulate the video to Friends who are interested in viewing it.

Jim and Rosie have also drafted a leaflet intended to accompany the video and help explain the nominations process to Friends who are new to it. We ask members to send comments to Jim and Rosie.

**8. Date of next meeting**

We agree to meet next by Zoom on **Monday 8 February 2021 (7.00 pm - 9.00 pm).**

David Olver

11 January 2021