

**Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire
17 July 2021
Held on Zoom internet conferencing platform**

Representatives

Brighouse West Yorkshire: Mike Casey (prev)

Central Yorkshire AM: David Bunney

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

Leeds AM: Barbara Parry, Pat Gerwat, Martin Schweiger and Liz Schweiger

York AM: Peter Jarman, Rosie Roberts, Graham Torr, Ruth and David Corry and Ann Holt

1. Meeting for Worship and Testimonies

During our opening worship we have heard read extracts of Testimonies to the Grace of God as shown in the lives of our Friends, Doris (Ann) Nicholls and Rosalie Huzzard. Full copies of the testimonies will be placed on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

2. Welcome by the Clerks

Our clerks have welcomed us to this, our fifth meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire to be held online, and have explained the necessary adaptations to the conduct of our meeting. We note that 42 Friends have registered in advance to attend today's meeting.

3. Appointments and Releases

a. Releases

Era Gjurgjeala has asked to be released as a Governor and Member of the Mount School Committee with immediate effect. *We agree to this release and hope to be able to receive a nomination of a replacement Old Scholar member of the Mount School Committee in due course.*

b. Appointments on the Nomination of Quakers in Yorkshire Nominations Committee

The Quakers in Yorkshire nominations committee brings forward nominations for service from 1/1.2022 until 31/12/2024 as follows:

Position	Nominated	Area Meeting	Term
Arrangements Committee	David Heslop	Craven and Keighley	2nd term
Retreat Nominations Committee	Sallie Ashe	Sheffield and Balby	2nd term

Safeguarding Coordinator and Trustee of Quakers in Yorkshire ex-officio	Ruth McTighe	Central Yorkshire	2nd term (1st as Trustee)
West Yorkshire Eccumenical Council (Church Leader)	Rachel Muers	Leeds	3rd term

For service from 1/1/2022 until 31/12/2025 as follows:

Bootham School Committee Jon Lovett Pickering and Hull 1st term

For service from now until 31/12/2021

Outreach Projects Group clerk Susan Robson Leeds 1st term

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

c. Nominations Required

Our nominations committee is still seeking Friends willing to be nominated for service for:

- Junior Holidays Committee,
- Under 19 Coordinating Group, and
- Co-Clerk of Quakers in Yorkshire.

We also hope to receive nominations from Area Meetings for:

- Outreach Projects Committee, Nominations Committee, and
- Trustees of Quakers in Yorkshire.

We encourage Friends to pass suggestions of nominations to the relevant Nominations committees, to encourage Friends in their meetings to consider service to Quakers in Yorkshire and to consider it themselves if approached.

4. Annual Reports

a. Annual Report of QiY Trustees,

David Olver, clerk of Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees, has introduced the annual report and accounts of Quakers in Yorkshire for 2020. David thanked Barbara Windle for her six years' service as clerk to QiY Trustees. David has commented on the changes QiY have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the resilience of our operations in very difficult times. David has thanked those involved in children's activities who have shown determination to keep activities going in adverse circumstances. He has commented on the work of Lee Lester, and that

Lee's service has funding to continue for another year. David has noted the publication of the new triennial book of members, and mentioned the management of the funds held by QiY. He has thanked all who have helped with the running of QiY. A question has been raised about the spending of the capital endowment, and it is hoped this might be done if someone can help facilitate the process. In answer to a question about the Linton Taylor bequest being given to Glenthorne rather than a loan, it has been explained that the loan allows greater flexibility in the spending of the money.

We thank David for his report.

b. Annual Report of Glenthorne

Roy Love, Co-clerk of Glenthorne Trustees, has introduced the annual report and accounts of Glenthorne Quaker centre and Guest House. The centre had to close early in 2020 and received minimal income since then. The centre participated in the government's furlough scheme, but there were still significant outgoings which cut the reserves by half. QiY was able to offer a loan which will be spread over 10 years.

Terry Winterton, Glenthorne's Friends in Residence, has extended the post-breakfast meeting for worship at Glenthorne as a Zoom meeting, drawing in Friends who have not actually been to the centre. Roy has noted the efficient work of the Glenthorne manager whose efforts have enabled the work to continue. Generous contributions have been received from Friends and supporters of Glenthorne. The full version of both reports can be found on the QiY website.

5. Racial Justice

Rosie Roberts has updated us on our progress in this work. Rosie has shown us a table illustrating the wide variety of learning and campaigning work going in all our Area Meetings. The table will be attached and circulated with our minutes and has been placed on the QiY website. Susan Robson has reminded us that individual Friends and meeting have their own preferences for action in this work, and that we are asked to look at the preparation activities for Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering. Can we become an anti-racist faith community? Are we talking with our neighbours and friends on this issue? How can we listen and learn? We learn that there are plans for work by Bradford Friends, and we are asked to consider how we can work in the wider community. The publication *Race Action News* reflects the work that is being done across the country.

We thank the members of the group for their work and their presentation to us.

6. Preparing for DSEI

Robin Bowles has reminded us of how we have been disturbed by the images of the harm done to people and communities by conflicts across the world. Robin has

quoted to us from the recent minute from Quaker Roots, which we will attach to these minutes. He has told us of the preparations for our witness for peace at the DSEI Arms Fair to be held from 14-17 September at the Excel Centre in London. All the *materiel* and military wares are available there. This is the event where those who profit from war do their business.

The main day of demonstration is 14 September. There will be preparation time at Friends House on Monday 13 September and a multi-faith vigil at the fair on 14th. Friends have been invited to share their thoughts in groups in breakout rooms. We thank Robin for his contribution today.

7. New Office in Leeds and Local Development Worker

We have welcomed Paul Parker, our Recording Clerk, to our meeting and he has updated us on the recent developments in the establishment of a Britain Yearly Meeting Hub Office at the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, in Leeds, the reappointment of Lee Lester as Quaker Youth Development Worker in Yorkshire and the appointment of Bridget Holtom as a Local Development Worker for Yorkshire. We have also been pleased to welcome Bridget to our meeting today. She has briefly introduced herself and we look forward to working with her both in our local and area meeting and within Quakers in Yorkshire.

Paul spoke of Britain Yearly Meeting as a national community, not just an organisation centred in London and as part of this in 2019 BYM Trustees and Woodbrooke Trustees agreed to establish local development workers within reach of every meeting. Bridget's post is one of 7 local development workers established so far and the offices in the Quaker Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, (formerly known as Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House, and the building in which Carlton Hill Local Quaker Meeting meets) will be the third location for BYM staff along with Friends House in London and Swarthmoor Hall. Paul shared a slideshow of pictures of the new office and introduced the members of staff based there.

8. Closing minute and Notices

There being no further matters before us at this time, we conclude, intending to meet next at Friargate Meeting House in York on Saturday 16 October 2021 should nothing occur to prevent.



Arthur Pritchard



Gavin Burnell

Notice:

The Quaker Tapestry Museum in Kendal is open again and is welcoming visitors.