

**Quakers in Yorkshire
Trustees**
**Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 18 June 2022**

Present: Gavin Burnell, David Bunney, Pat Gerwat, Peter Jarman, Ruth McTighe, David Olver, Chris Petrie, Digby Swift.

Prevented: Richard Vesey.

Quaker Faith & Practice 20.15 was read in our opening worship.

QYT-2022-06-01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2022 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2022-06-02. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2022-06-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: April quarterly meeting; Easter Settlement; Junior Holidays; Outreach Projects Committee; Yearly Meeting; BYM Annual Accounts; Coronavirus pandemic; Quakers in Britain Yorkshire Centre; Swarthmoor Hall; Rookhow Meeting House; Ackworth School; Membership in QiY (Tabular Statement)

QYT-2022-06-03. Safeguarding

(a) Annual Report

We receive the 2022 safeguarding report (paper QYT-2022-06-03a) and Ruth McTighe has spoken to it. The report uses the template provided by BYM for area meetings.

There have been no safeguarding issues during the last year and QiY has good DBS verification processes.

The one issue where QiY is not deemed compliant is in not having up to date risk assessments for children and young people's activities. There is also some concern that recruitment processes and safeguarding induction do not follow BYM recommendations. We ask our Safeguarding Coordinators and the Under 19s Coordinating Group to work with Junior Holidays, Holiday School, Easter Settlement and the organisers of young people activities at quarterly meetings to address these issues.

We thank Ruth McTighe and Liz Schweiger for compiling the report.

(b) Safeguarding Training

We receive a paper on providing safeguarding training for everyone, including trustees, involved with working with children and young people and vulnerable adults. (paper QYT-2022-06-03b).

An important part of safeguarding is ensuring that individuals who take on Quaker roles are appropriately trained to do those roles and are not likely to pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults. All Quaker organisations are required to follow established good practice in making appointments – the “safer appointments procedure” as set out in BYM safeguarding procedures.

We hope that QiY can aim to set a high standard in providing safeguarding training. We agree that QiY will provide the appropriate training for all those involved with Junior Holidays, Holiday School and Easter Settlement. We will use the live online webinars from 31:8.

QiY Trustees will also be expected to have had safeguarding training.

We ask Ruth McTighe, in conjunction with the Under 19s Coordinating Group, to arrange the training.

We authorise the Treasurer to pay for the courses up to a total maximum cost as agreed in the budget.

QYT-2022-06-04. Youth Development Worker

We have heard of the work of the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker, Jo Baynham. Jo has made a very good impression since starting at the beginning of the year. Jo has helped Easter Settlement, Junior holidays and Holiday School and is arranging youth activities across Yorkshire and assisting area meetings.

Digby Swift has told us about the support arrangements which seem to be quite comprehensive.

QYT-2022-06-05. QiY Support Role

A report is received on the setting up of QiY Support Role (paper QYT-2022-06-04). The Role has two elements – to support the clerks and to take forward the GRASP recommendations. Ellie McCarthy (New Earswick) was offered and accepted the Role and she has made an excellent start. Ellie is compiling the July QiY newsletter which will be in a new format and has made a start in developing a database for role holders.

We authorise the Treasurer to pay the agreed honorarium in four quarterly amounts.

QYT-2022-06-06. GRASP

We receive a paper reviewing progress with implementing the GRASP recommendations (paper QYT-2022-06-05). Since the GRASP report was published in February 2021, most meetings have devoted considerable time to considering the issues of simplification and reinvigoration. There is a strong desire to simplify, partly driven by the increasing difficulty in finding Friends able to fill essential roles in local and area meetings. The options for simplification are often being taken forward by trustees. The paper also describes national developments, particularly in London

where there are proposals for a single area meeting to replace the current seven Area Meetings.

We have discussed where next for QiY. We agree that at this stage QiY can best act as a facilitator. We note that in its current form, QiY is not set up to take on additional charitable and administrative functions of area meetings. What we can do is:

- Keep monitoring developments in London and Wales to see the, appetite for change.
- Ask the new QiY Support role to set up systems to improve communications and simplifying roles.
- Encourage meetings to keep considering how to simplify.
- Encourage meetings to provide inreach training opportunities and develop and outreach programme.
- In conjunction with Bridget Holtom (Local Development Worker), to assist AM trustees to collaborate and cooperate.
- If there is the will, facilitate the exploration of opportunities for merger.

Exploration with AMs

Further to minute QYT-2022-02-05 (Request from Central Yorkshire AM for exploration of merging charitable functions), the Clerk reports that he has not yet had the capacity to take the matter forward.

We have also received a minute from Craven & Keighley AM held on 12 March 2022 asking for a similar exploration.

We agree to treat the two requests together and ask the Clerk, together with Pat Gerwart and Digby Swift, to hold a zoom meeting with representatives of the two AMs. This might be followed by zoom meetings with other AMs.

QYT-2022-06-07. Annual Report and Accounts

We receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 which have been successfully examined by Crozier Jones. We approve them, subject to the factual corrections agreed in the meeting.

After the QiY meeting on 16 July 2022, the accounts will be filed with the Charity Commission. We thank Chris Petrie for the preparation of the annual accounts.

QYT-2022-06-08. Financial matters

We receive the financial report from the Treasurer (paper QYT-2022-06-06) and Chris Petrie has spoken to it.

State of Funds Report

After two unusual years caused by the pandemic of much reduced expenditure and income from activities, 2022 is expected to return to 2019 levels.

The investments have declined in value since February by about 10% - in line with the decline in the stock markets. The dividends are expected to decline by about 15%.

Budget for 2023

The draft budget for 2023 is based on 2019 activity levels, plus an increase to allow for inflation.

We agree the budget for 2023 with total net expenditure of £18,000. This includes £1,500 for safeguarding training.

Raising income to pay for activities

We agree that for 2023 the amount asked from AMs should be the same as for 2022. The difference might be made by appealing to individuals and meetings to support the activities sponsored by QiY.

We will return to this matter at our next meeting.

Applications for grants

(a) Huddersfield Meeting

An application has been received from the Treasurer of Huddersfield Meeting asking for a contribution towards the costs of providing new flooring in the meeting house.

We agree to grant of £1,000 from the Forrest Fund.

(b) Airton Meeting

An outline application has been received from the Treasurer of Craven & Keighley AM asking for a contribution towards the costs of solving damp problems in the Nook residential cottage which is attached to Airton meeting house.

A formal application form needs to be completed. We agree, in principle, to a grant of up to £4,000 from the Building Fund. If necessary, this will be agreed formally between meetings.

(c) Holiday School

We agree to transfer to Holiday School sufficient funds to assist them with organising this year's event. The amount will be £1,000 immediately and up to another £2,000 before the event.

QYT-2022-06-09. Date of next meeting

We have already agreed to meet on **Saturday 17 September 2022.**

We hope to be able to meet at Carlton Hill Meeting House.

David Olver

18 June 2022