

Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire

July 16th 2022

Held at Scarborough Friends Meeting House, 16th July 2022

QiY22/07/01 Opening Worship

In our opening worship we have heard read *Qf&p* paragraph 18.18.

QiY22/07/02 Welcome

We have been welcomed to our meeting today at Scarborough Friends Meeting House by Heather Wooley on behalf of the local meeting. Our clerks have outlined the agenda for today and we ask Brenda Rigby and Chris Fellows to serve as Elders on this occasion.

QiY22/07/03 Report from Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees

We receive the annual report and accounts from Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees for 2021 and the clerk to QiY Trustees, David Olver, has introduced it to us.

2021 has been the second year to be substantially impacted by the effects of the COVID pandemic with a number of events cancelled, held online only or in various alternative formats. During the year, Trustees have approved a new comprehensive safeguarding policy and developed a gender diversity policy.

Support for youth activities has been a major focus for Trustees' work in 2021 - in addition to Junior Holidays and Yorkshire Friends Holiday School from which we heard reports in January, Trustees have worked to fund the continuation of the Youth Development Worker post for a further three years. This is being funded from a combination of the former Adult School Union fund and pledges from the 7 Yorkshire Area Meetings. The Youth Development Worker, Jo Baynham, is based at the Britain Yearly Meeting Yorkshire Centre in Leeds along with the BYM funded local development worker for Yorkshire, Bridget Holtom.

2021 has also been an unusual year financially. Income was approximately one third of pre-pandemic levels, but expenditure was similarly reduced aside from the one off transfer of the Adult School Union fund to BYM. Although Quakers in Yorkshire hold substantial capital funds, the majority of this is restricted and endowed and thus not available for general purposes. Stock market conditions in 2021 saw a growth in capital of 9% - most of which has been eroded by less favourable conditions thus far in 2022. Income from the capital is relatively low at 1%, again due to market conditions.

Trustees are happy to receive applications for support for building projects and particularly for outreach activities.

Following the publication of the GRASP report in February 2021, meetings have been considering its recommendations and there have been ongoing meetings with trustees of some of the Yorkshire Area Meetings facilitated by Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees. Another outcome of the GRASP report has been the creation of the Quakers in Yorkshire Support role and Ellie McCartney has been appointed. We have also heard of a co-operative appointment of administrative support between Pickering and Hull AM and York AM. The longer term outcomes

from Grasp, be it collaboration, integration or merger of our Area Meetings remains unclear at this point, but we uphold trustee bodies in discerning the right way forward to simplify whilst remaining in Right Ordering.

We thank David for his report and for the service of all the Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees on our behalf. The report and accounts are available from the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

QiY22/07/04 Report from Glenthorne Trustees

Alan Robinson, on behalf of Glenthorne Trustees has introduced their annual report for 2021. Glenthorne was unable to reopen until September 2021 due to national restrictions of COVID pandemic. Despite this, by the end of November 2021 an operational surplus of nearly £100k was recorded. An appeal to former guests and friends of Glenthorne raised over £20k, The situation would have been considerably worse had not all applicable state support, such as the furlough scheme, not been applied to.

The pandemic also meant that the very valuable work supporting the Welcome project with short holidays for refugees and asylum seekers was suspended but has since been revived in Autumn 2021.

The depleted reserves has meant that no major building funds have been undertaken during the closure period and in addition a number of courses at Glenthorne had to be closed due to low numbers. Nevertheless, overall the occupancy level has been around 77%.

Changes in national Minimum and Living wages and the tight labour market in the hotel and hospitality sector has led trustees to review the overall pay structure.

Glenthorne trustees have decided to focus future spiritual courses on themes reflecting Britain Yearly Meeting's priorities.

With the approved financial position, Glenthorne trustees hope to be able to resume repayments of the loan made by QiY from the Linton Taylor fund. The trustees recorded their gratitude to Laura Tortosa and her team for their invaluable work during another difficult year. We thank Alan Robinson for the report, a copy of which is placed on the QiY website.

QiY22/07/05 Report from Breckenbrough School

We have received a report from the Breckenbrough School Governors and Ruth McTighe has introduced it for us. Breckenbrough is a small non-maintained special needs school, supported through local and central government funding offering day and residential places for boys between 9 and 19 with a range of complex special educational needs.

2021 saw a 36% increase in the number of pupils to 68 and there is a waiting list of 6 and a further 22 potential pupils awaiting Local Authority approval for assessment. Many of the pupils require a high level of support and in particular this has required the creation of a specialist behaviour management team. The return to in person schooling following lockdowns for COVID has been very challenging for the students and the staff have worked hard to support students and families through this.

Two major projects have been highlighted in the Governors' report. Firstly the construction of a "therapeutic hub" building to accommodate the expanding work of the speech therapist, occupational therapist and psychologist. Through support from a new benefactor, the school has been offered the use of some land and the construction of a new building to found a second site

to provide an alternative programme for pupils who have such extensive needs and difficulties that they struggle even with the very specialist environment that Breckenborough provides. Outdoor education and extracurricular activities are likely to be a major part of this new programme.

2021 also saw the return of OFSTED inspections and the governors were disappointed that the school was only given the second level of ranking - "Good" after five successive rankings at the highest "Outstanding" level for its residential provision. The educational provision has also slipped from Good to Requires Improvement. In both cases, management and leadership have been identified as the weaknesses with Quality of Education also featuring poorly in the Education inspection. The School's leadership team and Governors have put into place action plans to address the issues and redesigning the curriculum, introducing a Quality of Life framework and additional Governor training.

Digby Swift has told us of his experience starting as a new Breckenbrough Governor, an experience - along with his other school governor roles - which he has found rewarding. Digby has outlined the day to day role of a Governor between board meetings and committees. The school has been very accommodating of balancing Digby's duties to both Ackworth and Breckenbrough schools. We encourage Friends interested in governor roles to approach the clerk or assistant clerk to Governors (Alison Clarke & Ruth McTighe)

We thank Ruth and Digby for the report and the Governors for their work. A copy of the presentation will be placed on the QiY website. We uphold them as they work to address the challenges the school faces.

QiY22/07/06 Report from the Racial Justice Group

Ruth McTighe and Rosemary Roberts have given us the update from the Racial Justice Group. We have read an extract of the general epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting 2022 concerning racial justice and Ruth has reflected on the sessions at Yearly Meeting. Ruth has looked at resources produced by BYM, such as an overview of the work of Germantown Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Rosemary has particularly commended the Quaker Take video available via the BYM website page on reparations.

They have offered us the following query:

Is there an organisation in your locality you could seek allyship with?

We thank Ruth and Rosemary for their report, a copy of which is placed on the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

QiY22/07/07 Appointments and Releases

(a) Releases

We have received a request for release from service with immediate effect. for the Mount School Committee and Board of Governors from Stephanie Hogg We agree to this release and give thanks for Stephanie's service to the Mount School.

(b) Appointments

We have received the following nominations for service via the Quakers in Yorkshire Nominations Committee.

To serve on the Mount School Committee and as a Governor from now until 31/12/25 for a first term:

Sally Mounsey (On the nomination of the Governors, co-opted appointment)

To serve on Breckenbrough School Committee as a Governor from 1/1/23 until 31/12/26 for a second term

John Margham (York Area Meeting)

To serve on Junior Holidays from 1/1/23 until 31/12/25 for a first term:

Emily Paul (Acomb LM)

These nominations being acceptable, those named are appointed accordingly.

We thank our nominations committees for their hard work and look forward to receiving further nominations at a future meeting.

QiY 22/07/08 Minute of Record: Afternoon activities

During the early afternoon Friends have spent time with one another in a range of activities; walking to Throxenby Mere, to Peasholm Park and the sea, in discussion or sharing music in the meeting house. We have been glad to spend this time in fellowship together.

QiY22/07/09 Concluding Minute

We thank Scarborough Friends for their help with today's meeting, in particular the warden of Scarborough Meeting House, Anne Turner, as well as David Heslop and Deak Kirkham for setting up the meeting room for today.

There being no further business that might be rightly taken at this time, we conclude. We hope to meet again at the Mount School, York, Saturday 15th October 2022 should nothing occur to prevent.



David Bunney

Co-Clerks, Quakers in Yorkshire



Gavin Burnell