

**Quakers in Yorkshire  
Trustees  
Minutes for meeting  
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 18 February 2023  
and online**

**Present:** [In person] David Bunney, Pat Gerwat, David Olver, Roy Love, Chris Petrie, Richard Vesey.

[Online] Ruth McTighe, Digby Swift.

**Prevented:** Peter Jarman.

Quaker Faith & Practice 26.39 was read in our opening worship.

**QYT-2023-02-01. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2022 have been circulated electronically and received today. All minutes are on the QiY website.

**QYT-2023-02-02. Trustees**

(a) QiY appointed Roy Love to be Treasurer for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025. We welcome him to Trustees. Chris Petrie has agreed to prepare the Annual Accounts for 2022 so is present for this meeting.

We thank Chis Petrie for serving as QiY Treasurer and Gavin Burnell for serving as QiY Co-Clerk and Trustee. Their service and strong commitment to Quakers in Yorkshire has been greatly valued.

(b) The current list of trustees is shown in paper QYT-2023-02-02.

**QYT-2023-02-03. Clerk's Report**

We receive paper QYT-2023-02-03 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: October quarterly meeting; January quarterly meeting; Co-Clerk of QiY; Nominations; QiY Support Role; Local and Youth Development Workers; Link Group at Keighley.

We note that there are no trustees from Brighouse West Yorkshire and Pickering & Hull AMs. Also, neither AM has a member on Arrangements Committee. We reflect on the possibility that the more member from an AM come to quarterly meetings, the more might be willing to be role holders. We hope that more can be made of zoom meetings as a way of overcoming the possible barrier of distance.

**QYT-2023-02-04. Simplifying Quakerism (GRASP)**

(a) Further to minute QYT-2022-09-03, a meeting was held on 18 October 2022 with the clerks of AM trustees in QiY. The notes of the meeting and a recommendation to form a working group are received (paper QYT-2023-02-04). The meeting heard both expressions that we should explore merging charitable functions and doubts as

to whether this would actually result in simplification. David Olver reports that, so far, only two AMs have chosen representatives to the working group.

(b) QiY on 21 January 2023 held a session on Simplification in the Society of Friends, led by BYM Trustees (the notes of the session are on the website). The breakout groups were helpful in identifying current issues, one of which is the management of the large number of meeting houses we have in Yorkshire.

(c) We have heard of developments in London, Scotland and Wales. We particularly note that Friends in Wales have recently decided to have one charity for the whole of Wales, whilst retaining the separate area meetings.

(d) We have had a general discussion on the simplification agenda in Yorkshire. It would be helpful to obtain details of the proposals in London, Scotland and Wales. We can see merit in exploring the QiY wide management of meeting house premises. There would need to be partnership between local Friends and providing expertise at a Yorkshire level, particularly professional building advice.

### **QYT-2023-02-05. Yorkshire Youth Work**

We are pleased to hear that Jo Baynham, the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker, is making a significant difference to youth activities. In particular, he has restarted the long dormant Link group for teenagers, including a very successful weekend attended by 17 young friends at Keighley meeting house in December. He is also assisting the organising groups for Easter Settlement and Junior Holidays. This will hopefully encourage more links between different age groups. We are pleased to hear that Jo Baynham is now an ex-officio member of Arrangements Committee.

He has an active support group to which Digby belongs. One of the issues is how to reach out to young people living outside the metropolitan areas who have access to limited transport.

### **QYT-2023-02-06. Safeguarding**

Ruth McTighe reports that there is one issue over transport for young people where there should be two DBS checked people present. This is a significant ask for some meetings and Friends. The hope is to be able to differentiate between official transport for events and informal local arrangements.

She has made progress with implementing training. The QiY groups which need training are (1) nominations committee; (2) organisers of young people's events; (3) safeguarding coordinators; (4) trustees.

As far as trustee training is concerned, we welcome this and ask Ruth to organise online training for all serving trustees. Ruth will also organise training for the other groups.

### **QYT-2023-02-07. QiY Support Role**

Ellie McCarthy (QiY Support Role holder) has developed the quarterly newsletters to be informative and comprehensive. This is using the Mailchimp email system. She has also held meetings with Jo Baynham and Bridget Holtom on implementing database of role-holders. One issue is the need to satisfy data protection requirements.

**QYT-2023-02-08. Financial matters** (papers QYT-2023-02-05)

(a) Change of Treasurer

Chris Petrie and Roy Love have told us of progress with changing treasurers. Access to the bank accounts has been changed and the books and documents transferred.

(b) Financial Review for 2022

We receive a draft Financial Review for 2022, prepared by Chris, and thank him for preparing it.

Both income and expenditure recovered from the very low levels of 2021 but the activities in 2022 were still disrupted by the Covid pandemic so were lower than 2019. The value of the investments at year end decreased by about 17% reflecting the general decline in stock-markets which was particularly marked for ethical stocks. However, the income from the investments did increase by 17%.

(c) Annual accounts for 2022

We receive a draft outline of the annual accounts for 2022.

The Clerk will draft an annual report and then the annual report and accounts will go to Crozier Jones for examination.

(d) Investment performance for 2022

We receive a summary of investment performance for 2022.

(e) Reserves Policy

We have reviewed the Reserves Policy using a paper prepared by Chris Petrie. We are content with the implications for the accounts for 2022.

(f) Disposal of financial papers

We agree to Chris Petrie disposing of financial papers more than 6 years old.

(f) Online banking

We approve the use of online banking with CAF Bank.

We agree that the mandate for approval of online transactions will be as for cheques, except that the limit for one authorised signatory will be changed from £500 to £1,000. This means that, for all transactions (paper and online), one authorised signatory can approve up to £1,000. Over £1,000 two authorised signatories are needed. The following are authorised to approve transactions: Roy Love, David Olver, David Bunney, Richard Vesey.

(g) Investment meeting

A meeting of the Investment Group was held on 10 October 2022 with Rathbone Greenbank. The performance of the investments over the last year were reviewed. Ethical and sustainable investments had performed worse than the general stock market because there are no investments in armaments or fossil fuels. Rathbone Greenbank did not recommend any change in the QiY portfolios and the Investment Group agreed with the recommendation.

(h) Investment Group

We agree that the Trustees on the Investment Group will be Roy Love (Secretary), David Olver, Richard Vesey.

### **QYT-2023-02-09. Grant applications**

No applications for building grants have been received since our last meeting. One application for an outreach projects grant from New Earswick meeting was approved in the autumn.

### **QYT-2023-02-10. Raising funds for QiY**

Further to minute QYT-2022-09-08 at our last meeting, we receive the paper sent to Area Meetings by the Clerk and Treasurer (paper QYT-2023-02-06). This informs AM treasurers of our decision to raise our core costs by contributions from AMs and to raise support costs by appeal. The appeal funds will enable us to support activities such as Easter Settlement and Junior Holidays.

The Treasurer and Clerk will monitor the timing of the appeal for support costs. The appeal should emphasise the value to all Yorkshire Quakers of the QiY events.

### **QYT-2023-02-11. Book of Members and Attenders**

The QiY Book of Members and Attenders has been published every three years. If this pattern is followed then the next edition will be in early 2024 with compilation in the autumn of this year. Financially, the current edition sold for £5 and produced a small surplus.

The Book is valued by Friends throughout QiY so we agree to sponsor the 2024 Book of Members and Attenders.

The last three editions have been compiled by David Olver who is willing to coordinate the 2024 edition. We accept his offer.

### **QYT-2023-02-12. QiY policies**

We have reviewed the QiY Health and Safety Policy (paper QYT-2023-02-07) and Hiring Room Guidelines (paper QYT-2023-02-08) and made minor amendments.

### **QYT-2023-02-13. Organisational chart**

We receive a draft organisational chart for Quakers in Yorkshire (paper QYT-2023-02-09). We approve the chart with minor amendments.

### **QYT-2023-02-145. Date of next meeting**

We hope to meet on Saturday 17 June 2023, 10.30 to 13.00

David Olver, 18 February 2023