

**Quakers in Yorkshire
Trustees**
**Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 16 September 2023**

Present: David Bunney, Pat Gerwat, David Heslop, Peter Jarman, Roy Love, Ruth McTighe, David Olver, Digby Swift.

Prevented: Richard Vesey.

Quaker Faith & Practice 28.07 was read in our opening worship.

QYT-2023-09-01. Welcome

The meeting of QiY on 15 July 2023 appointed David Heslop as Assistant Clerk of QiY. The Clerks of QiY may take part in meetings of Trustees, but are not eligible to be trustees. We welcome David today.

QYT-2023-09-02. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2023 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2023-09-03. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2023-09-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: July quarterly meeting at Settle; QiY Annual report and accounts; Glenthorne 2023 report and accounts; Local Development Worker; QiY Clerking; QiY Support Role; 2024 Book of Members and Attenders.

QYT-2023-09-04. Safeguarding

(a) Issues

Ruth McTighe reports that there were no safeguarding issues at Holiday School or Junior Holidays this summer. The Under 19s Coordinating Group seems to have a good handle on safeguarding issues.

There is going to be day for youth activity volunteers on 11 November where safeguarding will be on the agenda. We agree to fund the event at an estimated cost of up to £500.

(b) Training

We thank Ruth for organising the trustee training session held by Zoom on 18 July 2023. This was very useful and informative. Ruth is following it up with a number of matters.

(i) record keeping We need to improve the keeping of records. The method of doing this will be proposed in conjunction with revising the QiY Safeguarding Policy. We agree the importance of not keeping safeguarding

data on laptops, which are vulnerable to being stolen or lost. Storing in the 'cloud' is the best option.

(ii) code of conduct We agree that the Code of Conduct (in the Toolkit) should be signed by trustees when they are appointed.

(iii) trustee training We agree that serving trustees should do further training, specifically take part in the e-learning Gateway to Safeguarding course and the webinar Safeguarding for Trustees. Ruth will organise the training.

QYT-2023-09-05. Youth activities

(a) Youth Development Worker

Digby Swift has reported in the latest Support Group meeting for Jo Baynham (Yorkshire Youth Development Worker). We are glad to hear that he is continuing to make a very positive impact by supporting youth activities across Yorkshire. This includes actively supporting Junior Holidays, Holiday School, Link Group and Easter Settlement. He also runs a series of regular online activities, some in conjunction with youth work in other regions. He was instrumental in the successful experiment to make the July quarterly meeting a 'family day'.

The seven AMs in QiY have agreed to provide the salary costs of the YDW for the three-year period September 2022 to August 2025. We are thus at the start of the second year. We hope that AMs feel that the outcomes so far fully justify their commitment and that they will be willing to continue the support in the longer term.

(b) Junior Holidays and Holiday School

We have heard about this year's Junior Holidays and Holiday School. The Junior Holidays in June at Nell Bank, Ilkley, was full and successful. The second event of the year is next weekend and bookings closed early due to high demand. The organising group is considering how to respond to the demand.

The Yorkshire Friends Holiday School was held at Bootham from 20-27 August. This was their 90th anniversary year and we congratulate them on reaching this milestone. Numbers attending were lower than hoped – probably due to the consequences of the pandemic. But it was considered a successful week by both participants, staff and organisers. Many of the new and young attenders came through the Junior Holidays/Link group route. This emphasises the value of the various groups working together.

(c) Review of QiY committee structure supporting youth activities

The current QiY committee structure for youth activities has a Junior Holidays Committee (appointed by QiY), a Holiday School Committee (self-appointed), an Easter Settlement Planning Group (part appointed by QiY) and an Under-19s Coordinating Group (appointed by QiY). There have been difficulties in finding Friends to serve on the activity committees/groups. Friends seem willing to actively volunteer, but often do not want to be part of a formal committee. This suggests that it is worth exploring whether the Under-19s Coordinating Group should become an Under-19's Committee with less formal, partly self-appointed, organising groups reporting to it. We hope that this can be considered in the coming months with a view to bringing any proposals to the January quarterly meeting to be held on 20 January 2024.

QYT-2023-09-06. Financial matters (papers QYT-2023-09-03)

(a) Financial summary

Roy Love has introduced the financial summary for the period up to 31 August 2023. He will circulate an updated version. The investment performance has decreased due to a significant fall in overall market value in the first half of the year due to a combination of market conditions and our environmental and ethical policies.

(b) Forecast for 2024

We accept the forecast for 2024 which is based on this year's activities plus an allowance for inflation. This leads to a total expenditure of £60,318 and income from activities of £46,288. The difference should be funded by the 'quota' at the same level as this year (£5 per member) and donations.

We recognise the need to put much more effort into raising funds to cover the deficit. The Clerk and Treasurer will progress this appeal for donations.

(c) Easter Settlement budget

Further to minute QYT-2023-06-07, we have received a minute from the Easter Settlement Planning Group which asks for a subsidy of £5,000 to enable Easter Settlement to take place in 2024 at Cober Hill. The subsidy is mainly to support children and young people. Whilst we accept the aim of encouraging families and young people, we do not feel that this level of subsidy is justified, or affordable by QiY. It would have to come from donations which means individual Friends being willing to support Easter Settlement.

We agree to a subsidy of up to £3,500 for the 2024 Easter Settlement. We ask the Planning Group to consider amending their individual subsidies to meet the available total subsidy.

(d) Updated Business Plan

Further to minute QYT-06-06 (b), Roy Love has presented an updated Business Plan which contains a number of highlighted areas where he is seeking guidance. We ask members to feed comments direct to Roy so that a further update can be brought to a future meeting.

(e) Applications for grants

(i) We have received an application from Brighouse West Yorkshire AM for a grant towards the cost of maintenance of Brighouse Burial Ground. We agree to give a grant of £700, as requested, from the Building Fund.

(ii) We have received an application from Huddersfield Meeting for a grant towards the cost of work needed to satisfy a Fire Risk Assessment. We agree to offer a grant of £3,000 from the Forrest Fund. The grant to be paid when the meeting has accepted a quotation for the work.

(f) Investments

We ask the Treasurer to arrange an annual meeting of the Investment Group (Roy Love, David Olver, Richard Vesey) with our investment managers at Rathbone.

QYT-2023-09-07. Linton Taylor Fund

Trustees last considered the future of the Linton Taylor Fund (papers QYT-2023-09-04) in 2015 when Glenthorne needed help to leave the Pension Trust. An interest free loan of £40,000 was given to Glenthorne to be repaid over 10 years. During the pandemic, they were given a 'holiday' in repayments.

Papers QYT-2023-09-04 contain the history of the Linton Taylor Bequest together with the 2015 minutes of Trustees, a paper from Peter Jarman on the release of the remaining Linton Taylor Funds and a comparison of the charitable activities of QiY and Glenthorne.

Over the period of sixty years, judicial investment of the Linton Taylor fund has enabled QiY to give substantial grants to Glenthorne to support the charitable side of their activities.

Peter Jarman has introduced the matter and proposes that the remaining Linton Taylor funds should be given to Glenthorne.

We have discussed the matter and heard a range of views.

We agree to explore with Glenthorne Trustees whether they would want the funds transferred to them and, if so, how they might use the remaining Linton Taylor Funds. This will inform us on whether we are minded to recommend to a quarterly meeting of QiY that the remaining funds be given to Glenthorne, bearing in mind that they can only be used for charitable purposes.

QYT-2023-09-08. Farfield Meeting House

We have received a letter from the Friends of Farfield Friends Meeting House (paper QYT-2023-09-05). Farfield Meeting House (between Ilkley and Skipton) is a grade II* simple building which is always open to the public. The 1689 meeting house was sold in 1956 by the Brighthouse, Leeds and Settle Monthly Meeting Trust Funds Committee to a group of Friends. The Friends looked after it until 1993 when it was gifted to the Historic Chapels Trust. The Trust have help maintain it to date. The heritage value of the meeting house was recognised by Historic England in its *Irreplaceable: A history of England in 100 Places* project by including it as the only nonconformist building in its Faith & Belief category. Now the Historic Chapels Trust is winding itself up and seeks to dispose of the property in the next two years.

The Friends of Farfield Friends Meeting House are asking if any support could be given to help preserve the meeting house in the future. We do not own property so cannot offer to take over the ownership. We are supportive of the option of setting up a new charity to own and preserve the premises. QiY might be willing to help by nominating a Trustee to the charity. Also, we could respond to requests for grants.

QYT-2023-09-09. Annual Risk Register

We have had our annual review of the Risk Register by assessing the 2022 version (paper QYT-2023-09-06).

We have updated some entries. The Clerk will circulate the amended Risk Register for 2023.

QYT-2023-09-10. Simplifying charitable functions

The Clerk has given a report on progress with the group of AM representatives which is considering how to simplify charitable functions in Yorkshire. The group has met by zoom four times. At one of the meetings the group heard of the experiences in Wales, Scotland and London of similar exercises. The current thinking of the group is to propose merging the AM charities across QiY, but retain area meetings. This is the method being implemented in Wales.

All decisions on what to do will be made by Area Meetings. We note that the current activities of QiY are complementary to those of the seven AMs.

QYT-2023-09-11. QiY and the York schools

The Clerk has reported on developments with the York schools.

QYT-2023-09-12. Dates of meetings in 2024

We agree to meet on the following dates in 2024:

Saturday 17 February 2024

Saturday 22 June 2024

Saturday 21 September 2024.

We hope to meet at Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds.

QYT-2023-09-13. Date of next meeting

Saturday 17 February 2024, 10.30 to 13.00

David Olver

16 September 2023