

**Quakers in Yorkshire
Trustees**
**Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 17 February 2024**

Present: Christine Abbott, Dawn Beck, Pat Gerwat, David Heslop, Roy Love, David Olver, Digby Swift, Richard Vesey.

Prevented: David Bunney, Ruth McTighe.

Quaker Faith & Practice 19.49 and introduction to 'An Ordered People' has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2024-02-01. Welcome

We welcome Christine Abbott and Dawn Beck as new trustees to this meeting. Christine was appointed by QiY on 14 October 2023 on the nomination of York AM and Dawn by QiY on 20 January 2024 on the nomination of Brighthouse West Yorkshire AM.

Paper QYT-2024-02-02 lists the Trustees serving this year.

QYT-2024-02-02. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2023 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2024-02-03. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2024-02-03 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: Quarterly meetings in October and January; Youth Development Worker and Local Development Worker; Funding for Youth Development Worker; Yorkshire Quaker Governance; Data consent form; 2024 Book of Members and Attenders.

We have noted the changes in number of members and attenders between 2021 and 2024 and we have briefly discussed the possible causes.

QYT-2024-02-04. Simplifying Yorkshire Quaker Governance

(a) Recommendation

We note that the Yorkshire Quaker Governance Group (formerly Simplifying Charitable Functions Group) has published a recommendation to the seven AMs that there should be a single charitable body with the area meetings retained for fostering worship and witness. Area and local meetings are currently considering the recommendation with responses requested by the end of April 2024.

We have raised some of the issues which are emerging in the discussions taking place in area meetings and local meetings.

(b) QiY charitable body

The recommendation did not comment on whether the single charitable body should also include QiY, or QiY should remain a separate charity.

We have discussed the options and do not see the need for a separate QiY charitable body. There is nothing special which we do which could not be integrated into a single charity.

(c) Progress in other regions

Three other regions of the Yearly Meeting are moving forward with simplification and we have heard of developments in London, Scotland and Wales.

QYT-2024-02-05. Financial matters (paper QYT-2024-02-05)

(a) Financial Summary

Roy Love has introduced the Financial Summary for the year end 2023. We note that these are interim numbers. Both income and expenditure recovered after the pandemic as activities returned to in-person events.

(b) Annual review of the Reserves Policy.

The Reserves Policy states that the minimum level of the free reserves (excluding Restricted and Endowed Funds) should be greater than one quarter of the expected annual expenditure. This year, the free reserves satisfy the requirement.

(c) Investment Group report.

A meeting of the Investment Group (Treasurer, Clerk, Richard Vesey) was held with Rathbone Greenbank on 23 November 2023 and a report is received. The performance of the investments over the last year were reviewed. For the second year running, ethical and sustainable investments have performed poorly compared to the technology and general equities. This has impacted the capital value of our funds but the yield has remained similar to recent years.

(d) Preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023.

The Clerk will draft an annual report for 2023 which will be circulated to trustees for comment. This and the draft annual accounts prepared by the Treasurer will then go to Crozier Jones for examination.

QYT-2024-02-06. Grant applications

We have received an application from Harrogate meeting to support work to improve the disability access to the meeting house (paper QYT-2024-02-06). The total cost of the project is estimated to be around £74,000.

We have discussed the application and agree that whilst we are sympathetic to the aim, we will engage with Harrogate meeting to determine how best we can assist to achieve their objective.

QYT-2024-02-07. Outreach Projects Committee

The Outreach Projects Committee which has been through a lean time but now seems to be reviving. The Nominations Committee has been unable to find a clerk so they currently operate without a clerk and share tasks.

Historically the Outreach Projects Committee was the replacement for Quaker Outreach Yorkshire which organised activities and gave grants. In recent years, the Outreach Projects Committee has met either online or by email and considered requests for grants – usually from local meetings who wish to organise some form of outreach.

They used to be given a budget of £10,000 but in recent year there has been few applications for grants and pre-pandemic they gave grants averaging £4,000 per annum. They hope that this year there will be more applications prompted by the George Fox 400th anniversary.

Rather than allocate a nominal budget, we ask them to liaise with the Treasurer so that as many applications as possible can be supported.

QYT-2024-02-08. Safeguarding

We are not aware of any safeguarding issues since we last met.

Most of the 2023 Trustees took part in 31:8 training in the autumn and attended webinars on Gateway to Safeguarding and Safeguarding for Trustees.

We ask the Safeguarding Coordinator to facilitate the safeguarding needs of our new trustees.

QYT-2024-02-09. Yorkshire Youth Work

Jo Baynham (Yorkshire Youth Development Worker) has continued to promote youth activities across Yorkshire. He reported to the January QiY that his time could be divided into five strands: Connecting people in networks; providing opportunities to develop and deepen Quaker knowledge and understanding (including Junior Holidays, Link Group, Easter Settlement); walking alongside Quaker worshipping groups; offering information and resources to groups; developing his skills and training. He has a full programme of activities for 2024.

We have heard that the Support Group is working well. The Group is looking to inform Friends of how valuable the work is in encouraging more young Quakers in Yorkshire.

QYT-2024-02-10. Glenthorne – Linton Taylor Fund

At our last meeting we agreed to explore with Glenthorne trustees whether they would want the remaining money in the Linton Taylor Fund transferred to them. We receive their minute in paper (QYT-2024-02-07).

We have discussed the matter and agree to recommend to QiY in session that we transfer the remainder of the Linton Taylor Fund to Glenthorne Quaker Centre for the purpose of improving sustainability and subsidising courses for young people.

QYT-2024-02-11. Easter Settlement

At our last meeting we agreed to offer the Easter Settlement Planning Group a subsidy of up to £3,500 (minute QYT-2023-09-06 (c)). Their minute is received in paper QYT2024-02-08. They have decided not to provide a programme for children this year and therefore do not need the subsidy. The charges levied by Cober Hill are such that it is no longer economic for families to attend. They intend to explore other venues and consequently the 2024 Easter Settlement may be the last held at Cober Hill.

14. Date of next meeting

Saturday 15 June 2024, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds.

The third meeting of 2024 is planned for Saturday 21 September 2024.

David Olver
17 February 2024