

**Quakers in Yorkshire
Trustees**
**Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 15 June 2024**

Present: Christine Abbott, Dawn Beck, Pat Gerwat, David Heslop, David Olver, Ruth McTighe.

Prevented: David Bunney, Roy Love , Digby Swift, Richard Vesey.

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.30 (abstract from George Fox Epistle 162 of 1658) has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2024-06-01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2024 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2024-06-02. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2024-06-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: April 2024 quarterly meeting, July 2024 quarterly meeting, Swarthmoor Hall, Fox 400, Yearly Meeting, Outreach Projects Committee, Book of Members and Attenders.

QYT-2024-06-03. Treasurer

The April QiY meeting released Roy Love, at his request, from the role of Treasurer. He remains formally a trustee. He has agreed to continue looking after the finances until a successor is found.

We have had a general discussion on the best way of managing the accounts.

QYT-2024-06-04. Safeguarding

Ruth McTighe has presented the annual report on Safeguarding (paper QYT-2024-06-03). She has commented that the general attitude towards safeguarding is very much better than when she started in the role of QiY Safeguarding Coordinator.

There have been three, relatively minor, safeguarding concerns during the past year. These were dealt with satisfactorily in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.

We ask the QiY clerks to work with Arrangements Committee to (a) display the QiY Safeguarding Poster at all quarterly meetings and (b) introduce the safeguarding lead at the start of each meeting.

The Safeguarding Policy is in the process of revision and will be brought to a future meeting. BYM now has a simplified policy which can be largely copied.

We thank Ruth for her careful guidance on safeguarding matters.

QYT-2024-06-05. Simplifying Yorkshire Quaker Governance

We receive a summary report on progress from the Yorkshire Quaker Governance Group (paper QYT-2024-06-04).

We have had a short discussion on the implications for QiY of a single charity merging AMs and QiY. We agree to set up a working group to explore the issues further. We ask Christine Abbott, David Bunney and Digby Swift to join the Group.

QYT-2024-06-06. Financial report

We receive the financial report for this year up to 10 June 2024 (paper QYT-2024-06-05). The income, expenditure and state of the funds are satisfactory.

QYT-2024-06-07. Annual Report and Accounts for 2023

The examination of the 2023 Annual Accounts by Crozier Jones are not complete in time for this meeting so we cannot formally approve them today.

We agree that we will approve the annual report and accounts by email when they are available.

QYT-2024-06-08. Grant applications

We have considered three applications for grants, two in paper QYT-2024-06-06.

(a) Brighouse Burial Ground (request for annual contribution)

Brighouse West Yorkshire AM are requesting a contribution to the upkeep of Brighouse Burial Ground. We do not wish to commit to a regular contribution as we do not know wish to commit future trustees. However we are sympathetic and agree to make a grant of £700 from the Building Fund.

(b) Brighouse Burial Ground (request for contribution to repairing wall)

Brighouse West Yorkshire AM are requesting a contribution to repairing the wall of the Brighouse Burial Ground which has collapsed. We agree to make a grant of £1,180 from the Building Fund.

(c) Disability Request at Yorkshire Friends Holiday School

We have had tabled a request to enable the inclusion of a wheelchair-using Young Quaker at the Yorkshire Friends Holiday School. We supported this applicant last year and agree to give a grant of £390 from the General Fund for this year. If the Young Quaker is able to attend Holiday School in 2025, then we will provide a similar grant in 2025.

QYT-2024-06-09. Yorkshire Quaker Camp

We are glad to hear that proposals for a Yorkshire Quaker Camp in summer 2025 are proceeding satisfactorily. We agreed by email the allocation of a budget of £1,200 so that the project can proceed.

QYT-2024-06-10. Link Group

The Yorkshire Link Group was restarted by Jo Baynham in December 2022 and has met regularly since then. To date Link group events have been under the auspices of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is now proposed that QiY should take over full responsibility for the Yorkshire Link Group (paper QYT-2024-06-07). The Under 19s Coordinating Group, at their meeting on 22 May, supported the transfer. Jo Baynham and Kirsty Philbrick (Quaker Life Team Leader: Children and Youth Development Work) will arrange the transfer after the next Link Group to be held at Friargate Meeting House at the end of June. They are confident that there are enough young people and volunteers to run Link Group weekends.

We are glad to take over responsibility for the Link Group so that it sits alongside Junior Holidays and Holiday School as part of the QiY youth activities. We ask the Under 19s Coordinating Group to add the Link Group to its oversight responsibilities.

The Clerk will check the Insurance Policy and Health & Safety Policy and ask the Treasurer to include the Link Group in future budgets.

We thank Jo for his work in restarting and nurturing the Link Group and in helping to enable it to fulfil the aspirations among Yorkshire Quaker teenagers.

QYT-2024-06-11. Supporting and coordinating youth activities

We receive paper QYT-2024-06-08 with proposals for a change to the remit of the Under 19s Coordinating Group.

The current structure for coordinating youth activities is that the Under 19s Coordinating Group advises and coordinates the organising groups for youth activities. But it does not have delegated authority from Trustees to assist organising committees and provide advice to Trustees on compliance issues.

The Under 19s Coordinating Group has been successfully running for at least twenty years. It was the forerunner in providing advice on safeguarding issues, long before formal safeguarding roles were appointed. Now the two QiY Safeguarding Coordinators attend the Group's meetings.

We have discussed the proposal and agree to recommend to QiY in session that the remit is changed to give it delegated authority from trustees. We accept the new terms of reference (with minor changes). The name should be changed to the QiY Under 19s Committee. The membership will be as in the new terms of reference.

QYT-2024-06-12. Yorkshire Youth Work

We have heard about the successful work of Jo Baynham (Yorkshire Youth Development Worker). A recent Support Group meeting was happy with the way the programme to engage more young people is progressing.

The Support Group recommends that Quakers across Yorkshire will need a funded youth worker to continue in the future (paper QYT-2024-06-09). The current funding for the post is provided mainly by the seven area meetings who agreed to a three year programme ending in August 2025.

We strongly endorse the recommendation and hope we can work with BYM fund-raisers to convince AMs and Yorkshire Friends of the vital importance of ensuring that there are on-going generations of young people who will be able to re-invigorate Yorkshire Quakerism.

QYT-2024-06-13. Easter Settlement

David Heslop has given us a report on this year's Easter Settlement and future events.

It was a successful event, held without a formal young peoples programme to keep the cost reasonable. Financially, the Easter Settlement was in balance, in contrast to previous years which had run at losses. The Easter Settlement Planning Group is considering what the future should be, noting that the proposed Yorkshire Quaker Camp is intended to replace some of the original reasons for Easter Settlement as an all-age event.

We are aware that there are many Friends who have benefited greatly from Easter Settlement and would be very sad to see it not continue. But we need to be realistic about what can be organised at reasonable costs. We uphold the Easter Settlement Planning Group in their discernment.

QYT-2024-06-14. Trustee report to July meeting of QiY

Trustees give an annual report to the July QiY meeting. This will be done by the Clerk. This year there are a number of items to be included:

- Review of the year;
- Annual accounts;
- Recommendation to transfer the remainder of the Linton Taylor Fund to Glenthorne Quaker Centre for the purpose of improving sustainability and subsidising courses for young people;
- Recommendation to change the remit and name of the Under 19s Coordinating Group;
- Link Group transfer to our responsibility.

QYT-2024-06-15. Ravensworth Lodge

Ravensworth Lodge is a residential care home in Scarborough originally set up under the auspices of Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting (the predecessor of QiY). Christine Abbott has been Clerk of the Yorkshire Friends Housing Society which owns Ravensworth Lodge. She has given us a briefing on the history, present situation and possible future scenarios.

QYT-2024-06-16. Date of next meeting

Saturday 21 September 2024, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds.

David Olver
15 June 2024