

**Quakers in Yorkshire
Trustees**
**Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 21 September 2024**

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

Prevented: Christine Abbott, Dawn Beck.

Quaker Faith & Practice 15:01 (part of) has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2024-09-01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2024 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2024-09-02. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2024-09-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: July 2024 quarterly meeting, Fox 400 Celebrations, Yearly Meeting, Barmoor, Farfield Meeting House.

QYT-2024-09-03. Safeguarding

Ruth McTighe reports that two small safeguarding incidents occurred over the summer. Both incidents were dealt with appropriately – helped by excellent advice from BYM and 31:8.

Ruth will follow up on training needs this autumn. She finished as QiY Safeguarding Coordinator at the end of the year, but intends to re-write our Safeguarding Policy before then. We thank Ruth for her service.

QYT-2024-09-04 Yorkshire Quakers

(a) Proposal from the Yorkshire Quaker Governance Group

We have received the proposals for a single charity to be called "Yorkshire Quakers" with the objectives of simplifying the organisation of Quakerism in Yorkshire and hence helping to reinvigorate Yorkshire Quakerism. The proposals are now being considered by the seven area meetings.

David Olver, the Convenor of the Group, has answered questions. In general, we welcome the proposals and look forward to the decisions of Area Meetings.

(b) Report from Trustees working group We receive paper QYT-2024-09-09 and have had a discussion on the proposed incorporation of QiY into the Yorkshire Quakers charity.

We thank the working group (Digby Swift, Christine Abbott, David Bunney) for their work. They propose to incorporate QiY committees and structures into the new Yorkshire Quakers charity, with the quarterly meetings fulfilling the role of General

Meetings for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The QiY responsibilities for Bootham and The Mount schools would also be incorporated into Yorkshire Quakers.

We have identified various issues which we ask the working group to consider and also ask them to keep a watching brief on developments.

We will publish the paper and also forward it to the Yorkshire Governance Group so that it can feed into the development of the single charity.

QYT-2024-09-05. Yorkshire Quaker Camp

We are glad to receive proposals for a Yorkshire Quaker Camp in 2025 (paper QYT-2024-09-03). There is a relatively large Planning Group which includes Craig Barnett and Jo Baynham who are overseeing the proposals. We thank them and all the Friends who have been involved so far in this exciting new activity.

The Planning Group has selected the Fell Edge camp site at Addingham Moorside, Ilkley, for the first camp to be held 8th to 10th August 2025. A deposit of £100 has been paid.

We receive, and approve, a draft budget. The outgoings are relatively low so the standard fee can be £75 for three nights. We agree to subsidise young people in full-time education. The QiY subsidy for the 2025 Camp is currently estimated to be £2,195.

We have also had tabled a Risk Register which we approve. It will be updated as necessary.

QYT-2024-09-06. Easter Settlement and Spring Gathering

We receive a report from the Easter Settlement Planning Group (paper QYT-2024-09-04). They have decided not to organise a formal Easter Settlement in 2025. It is hoped that some Friends will stay at Cober Hill over Easter, but this will not involve QiY financially, or organisationally. Hence there will be no financial risk in 2025. The Planning Group intends to actively support the Yorkshire Quaker Camp.

We thank all the Friends who have had to take these decisions and uphold them in future discernment.

QYT-2024-09-07. Youth activities

(a) 2024 Youth activities

The two Junior Holiday weekends were both successful and fully booked with costs within budget. The Holiday School is slowly recovering from the reduced Covid numbers with a trend towards a younger age group. The Holiday School looks after its own compliance and safeguarding arrangements and this has much improved. A notable feature of both Junior Holidays and Holiday School is increased request for bursaries.

The Link Group is hopefully now able to run itself. The next event will be at Barmoor in December.

There is a full programme of youth activities planned for the autumn. We are grateful to the commitment and continued enthusiasm provided by Jo Baynham which is

giving the younger Quakers a real opportunity to find spiritual and social companionship under high standards of leadership.

(b) YDW future funding

The current funding for the post of Yorkshire Youth Development Worker goes up to August 2025. BYM have produced documentation reporting on the work to date and providing information so that the seven area meetings can decide whether to continue to support the post. The main paper entitled "Building All-Age Quaker Communities: Yorkshire Youth Development Worker" provides background, achievements, budget and request for funding.

We strongly support the continued funding of the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker. The post has made a real and demonstrable difference to youth activities in Yorkshire. We encourage area meetings to invest in the future of Quakerism in Yorkshire.

QYT-2024-09-08. Ravensworth Lodge

A report is received on the background to the sale of Ravensworth Lodge (paper QYT-2024-09-05) (see also minute QYT-2024-06-15).

Ravensworth Lodge is being sold for £435,000 to an organisation which can continue to provide care on the premises. We approve of this sale.

The proceeds of the sale, after debts have been paid, will come to Quakers in Yorkshire. In accordance with the wishes of the original donors, the money will be put into a restricted fund, which will give grants to support Friends of an appropriate age and who need care. The details will need to be worked out and agreed at a later date.

QYT-2024-09-09. York Schools

David Bunney has reported on a meeting he held with the Clerks of Governors of Bootham and The Mount Schools.

The relationship between QiY and the two Schools is specified in the 2001 Deed of Direction and the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding. The former gives the Schools the authority to manage their properties and the latter specifies the governance relationship. The Schools have made considerable use of their ability to buy, sell, lease property without reference back to QiY. However the Deed of Direction contains a revocation clause which states that at any time QiY can revoke the authority. This was inserted following legal advice which recommended the revocation clause. The Schools are now finding that their ability to manage their properties are constrained by the clause. They are constrained in their ability to borrow money using the assets of the Schools as collateral.

We ask the Schools to propose possible new wording for the Deed of Direction. We will need to take legal advice, which we hope the Schools will be willing to pay for as we have no funds for this purpose.

We hope to continue a conversation with the Schools so as to sustain them in providing Quaker education into the future.

QYT-2024-09-10. Financial matters

(paper QYT-2024-09-06)

(a) Financial summary

We receive an outline draft financial summary as at 31 August 2024 which shows that activities have been in line with budget. The overall state of the QiY finances is healthy with adequate reserves. The performance of the QiY investments has improved compared to last year which reflects improved ethical equity markets.

(b) Forecast for 2025

The best prediction for 2025 is that the level of QiY activities will be similar to 2024. Holiday School and Junior Holidays should follow this year's pattern. Easter Settlement will not take place but there will be the new Yorkshire Quaker Camp with a similar level of subsidy. The Camp has a relatively high level of risk because it is the first such event but the fixed costs are lower.

In consequence, the financial forecast for 2025 should be comparable to 2024 and 2023 with both income and expenditure of around £70,000. The level of inflation is expected to be around 2.5%.

This means that the level of contributions from area meetings can remain at £5 per member.

(c) Annual Report and Accounts for 2023

Crozier Jones completed the examination of the 2023 Accounts in late June and we approved them by email effectively on 3 July 2024. Quakers in Yorkshire on 15 July endorsed the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 and they were submitted to the Charity Commission on 22 July 2024.

(d) Procedure for 2024 Annual Accounts

Crozier Jones have offered to compile the 2024 QiY annual accounts if we supply them with the raw data. We welcome this offer and agree to pay Crozier Jones to compile and examine the 2024 QiY annual accounts.

(e) Linton Taylor Fund

The July quarterly meeting endorsed our 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.

The Fund consists partly of cash and partly investments. We authorise Rathbone Greenbank to sell the investments. We ask Roy Love to arrange the sale of the investments and then transfer the Linton Taylor fund to Glenthorne Quaker Centre.

(f) Annual Investments review

We ask Roy Love to arrange for our annual review of the performance of our investments with Rathbone Greenbank. This will be with our Investment Group (Roy Love, David Olver, Richard Vesey).

(g) Holiday School finances

We have received a briefing on the way Holiday School is financed, They keep their own accounts and have their own Treasurer. But the Holiday School is part of QiY so at the end of each year their accounts are integrated into the QiY annual accounts. We accept the need to ensure that Holiday School always has sufficient funds in its bank account to be able to pay for approved expenditure. Hence we

authorise the QiY Treasurer to ensure that Holiday School has sufficient funds to be able to pay approved expenditure.

(h) Applications for grants

An application has been received from High Flatts Meeting, supported by Central Yorkshire AM, for a grant towards the cost of installing disabled toilet facilities.

We agree to give a grant of £4,000 from the Forrest Fund. The grant to be paid when the contract for the work is approved.

QYT-2024-09-11. Annual Risk Register

We have undertaken our annual review of the Risk Register by assessing the 2023 risk register (paper QYT-2024-09-07).

We have updated some entries and added the Yorkshire Quaker Camp. The Clerk will circulate the 2024 Risk Register and place a copy on the website.

QYT-2024-09-12. Policies

(a) We thank Christine Abbott for listing the status of policies approved by QiY Trustees (paper QYT-2024-09-08). The list shows that the following policies have not been reviewed within a three year period: Financial Procedures; Reserves Policy; Data Protection Policy; Guidelines for archive deposit

We agree to review each of these policies by email.

(b) We receive and approve an updated Health & Safety policy, noting that reference to the Yorkshire Quaker Camp needs adding.

QYT-2024-09-13. Dates of meetings in 2025

We agree to meet on the following dates in 2025. All meetings will be held at Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds.

Saturday 15 February 2025

Saturday 21 June 2025

Saturday 20 September 2025.

QYT-2024-09-15. Date of next meeting

We agree to next meet on Saturday 15 February 2025 at Carlton Hill, Leeds.

David Olver
21 September 2024