

# **Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees**

## **Minutes for meeting held at Carlton Hill and on Zoom on Saturday 15 February 2025**

**Present:** Christine Abbott, Dawn Beck, David Bunney, Pat Gerwat, David Heslop, Roy Love, Ruth McTighe, David Olver, Digby Swift.

[The meeting was held blended with 4 at Carlton Hill and 5 on-line]

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.30 has been read in our opening worship.

### **QYT-2025-02-01. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2024 have been circulated electronically and received today.

### **QYT-2025-02-02. Trustees**

We receive paper QYT-2025-02-02 which lists the Trustees serving this year. We note that Craven & Keighley AM are still in the process of seeking a successor to Richard Vesey whose term of service has finished.

### **QYT-2025-02-03. Clerk's Report**

We receive paper QYT-2025-02-03 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: Quarterly meetings in October and January; Easter Settlement; Ravensworth Lodge; Newsletter; Governance / Simplification.

### **QYT-2025-02-04. Simplifying Yorkshire Quaker Governance**

All the seven Area Meetings have now agreed to move to the next stage of forming a single merged charity to replace the separate AM charities. Our quarterly meeting on 15 January also endorsed the merger (paper QYT-2025-02-04). The Yorkshire Quaker Governance Group has met and proposes to move to be an Implementation Group with two representatives from each AM and one representativeness from QiY. The AMs are now seeking to appoint representatives. Working Groups will do much of the work to develop firm proposals for how to simplify and manage finance, property, safeguarding and governance.

We confirm the appointment of David Olver as the QiY representative on the Implementation Group.

We have discussed issues which are coming up in local and area meetings:

- How much is it going to cost? Many Friends and meetings are struggling financially.
- There are indications that there are new young groups who wish to take part in Quaker events, but they do not always want to join traditional local meetings.
- We need to ask what will Quakerism look like in 30 years time? i.e. we need a 30-year strategy.

- We have heard that local meetings wish to continue to manage their properties but they need access to expertise which could be provided by Yorkshire Quakers.
- We have to learn and share our personal experiences so that we can move forward together.

### **QYT-2025-02-05. Yorkshire Youth Work**

We receive a report of the work of the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker and future funding (paper QYT-2025-02-05). Jo Baynham has arranged, or actively supports, a comprehensive programme of youth activities in the first quarter of 2025.

All the seven AMs have now agreed to fund the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker for another 3 years. This will run from September 2025 to August 2028. A memorandum of understanding between BYM (the employer) and the area meetings has been agreed.

The Support Group has existed since the start of the YDW programme. It has been relatively ad-hoc to date, but will now be made more formal with a mix of people to represent AMs, role-holders, different age ranges and youth communities.

David Heslop has reported on a productive and celebratory meeting of the Support Group held on 13 February. Jo Baynham brings gifts which are exceptionally valuable but we need to remember that it is the role which is being supported. We are pleased at the active partnership of the Yorkshire Youth and Local Development Workers. We note the value of them being employed by Britain Yearly Meeting to enable shared support.

### **QYT-2025-02-06. Yorkshire Quaker Camp**

We receive a report on the new Yorkshire Quaker Camp to be held 8-11 August 2025 (paper QYT-2025-02-06). We are pleased that the Camp is already fully booked and has met the initial budget. We thank Craig Barnett and Jo Baynham for making the planning for the Camp a success for a diverse, all-age, community.

### **QYT-2025-02-07. Ravensworth Lodge**

Christine Abbott declared a conflict of interest on this matter.

We have heard from an update from Christine on the sale of Ravensworth Lodge. There have been delays in the sale which is costing money from the reserves of the Yorkshire Friends Housing Society. Members of the Management Committee are distraught at the many issues and the lack of personal support. They are hopeful that the legal relationship with QiY is now clearer.

We are grateful for the hard work of all those on the Management Committee.

### **QYT-2025-02-08. Safeguarding**

Ruth McTighe has reported that there have been no safeguarding issues since we last met. She is continuing to revise the QiY Safeguarding Policy.

We are concerned that QiY Nominations Committee has so far been unable to find a successor to Ruth as QiY Safeguarding Coordinator. This will place a strain on all QiY activities.

We agree to explore options for providing professional safeguarding cover at events.

## **QYT-2025-02-09. Financial matters (paper QYT-2025-02-07)**

### (a) Financial summary for 2024

We receive the financial summaries for the year ended 31 December 2024. The outcomes were satisfactory with activities performing according to budget. Both the Forest's Meeting Houses Fund and the Buildings Fund received more income than we received requests for grants.

### (b) Linton Taylor Bequest

Further to Minute QYT-2024-09-10 (e) the Linton Taylor Bequest was transferred to Glenthorne Quaker Centre in October 2024.

Glenthorne was loaned £40,000 in 2017 from the Bequest to be repaid at £4,000 per year (interest free). They had repaid £28,000 by last year of which £24,000 had been passed to Rathbone Greenbank for adding to the small amount of investments not loaned to Glenthorne. In October 2024, Rathbone Greenbank sold the money invested for £26,426.83. We then transferred to Glenthorne £26,426.83 plus the £4,000 not re-invested.

We confirm that the outstanding loan to Glenthorne Quaker Centre of £12,000 is cancelled and so this sum of £12,000 is formally transferred to Glenthorne.

### (c) Annual review of the Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy says that the minimum reserve level of the sum of all the unrestricted funds at the end of the financial year should be one quarter of of the anticipated expenditure for the year ahead. This year, the unrestricted reserves satisfy the Reserves Policy.

### (d) Investment Group report

A meeting of the Investment Group (Treasurer, Clerk, Richard Vesey) was held with Rathbone Greenbank on 1 November 2024 and a report is received. The performance of the investments over the last year were reviewed. The world's stock markets performed well in 2024 but this was not the case with ethical and sustainable investments as most of the increase in valuation was due to armaments, fossil fuels, and large technology companies with poor employment records. Consequently the value of our investments was similar to the previous year.

### (e) Annual Report for 2024

The Clerk has prepared a draft annual report which is received and accepted with amendments. We agree that in future Annual Reports we should have a section on future strategy.

### (f) Preparation and examination of Annual Accounts for 2024

Crozier Jones (Doncaster) will compile the 2024 annual accounts and also examine them in the next few months. The aim being to have the completed accounts in time for us to approve them at our June meeting.

### (g) Proposed Finance Administrator

The role description for a Finance Administrator is received. The aim of this post is to pay a self-employed person to do much of the book-keeping for the youth and all-age activities. This would relieve the Treasurer of a significant work load and hopefully make it easier for Nominations Committee to find a Friend to be QiY Treasurer. The role-holder would be given access to the bank account so that online

payments and record-keeping could be done. All online transactions require two signatories (currently David Olver, Roy Love, David Bunney, Richard Vesey) so there will always be a check on payments.

We approve the role description which will have accountability to Trustees and responsible for reporting to the Treasurer. The role holder will be self-employed working under a contract.

We approve using a Finance Administrator to assist with the book-keeping. We authorise the Clerk and Treasurer to negotiate and agree with a suitably qualified person.

### **QYT-2025-02-10. Grant applications**

We have received an applications from Brighthouse West Yorkshire AM for funds to continue to maintain the Brighthouse Burial Ground in a good state (paper QYT-2024-02-08). We agree to give a grant of £935 from the Buildings Fund.

### **QYT-2025-02-11. Review of policies**

We have received and reviewed three revised and updated policies (paper QYT-2024-02-09): (i) the Reserves policy; (ii) the Data Protection policy (as amended in this meeting); (iii) the Guidelines for Archive Deposit.

We approve the updated policies. They will replace the current policies on the website. We agree to add to all policies the author and date for review.

Policies scheduled for review next are:

- Financial Procedures (due for review Sept 2024)
- Investment policy (due for review Feb 2025)
- Health & Safety policy (due for review Feb 2025)
- Policy and Guidelines for supporting gender diverse young people (due for review Feb 2025)

We thank Christine Abbott for agreeing to coordinate the development of policies which QiY does not have but are recommended by the Charity Commission.

### **QYT-2025-02-12 Date of next meeting**

Saturday 21 June 2025, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds.

The third meeting of 2025 is scheduled for Saturday 20 September 2025.

David Olver  
15 February 2025