

Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees
Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 20 September 2025

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

Prevented: Christine Abbott, Dawn Beck, Judy Shorney.

Quaker Faith & Practice 18.20 (part) has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2025-09-01 Trustees

Judy Shorney was appointed by Quarterly Meeting on 20 July 2025 to represent Craven & Keighley AM.

QYT-2025-09-02 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2025 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2025-09-03 Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2025-09-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: July quarterly meeting; Farfield meeting house; Swarthmoor Hall; Glenthorne Quaker Centre; Trustees and Treasurers Conference; Outcome of grant provision.

QYT-2025-09-04 Safeguarding

Ruth McTighe has updated us on safeguarding issues:

- (a) There is now a revised Memorandum of Understanding for the Youth Development Worker when either BYM or QiY are initiating activities. This seems to be working well.
- (b) Holiday School had no reportable safeguarding concerns but a few issues were raised and dealt with appropriately. The planning group have made a number recommendations to strengthen their safeguarding efforts.
- (c) There was a good induction meeting with the new Safeguarding Coordination (Alex Parker).
- (d) We have heard of plans for how safeguarding might be organised under the new Yorkshire Quakers charity.

QYT-2025-09-05 Yorkshire Quakers

The Clerk has given us an update on the implementation of the formation of a single charity.

This autumn each Area Meeting is being asked to approve the draft constitution and find and appoint the first trustees. This will then enable the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation to be registered with the Charity Commission. So far three AMs have approved the constitution with the others in the process of considering it.

The Implementation Group has agreed that the Yorkshire Quakers General Meetings, which are open to all members in the participating AMs, should be based on the existing QiY quarterly meetings.

They have also agreed that the Yorkshire Quakers Nominations Committee should consist of the Convenors (or another member) of each of the AM Nominations Committee. The QiY Nominations Committee was informed of this arrangement at a meeting on 26 August. There will still be the need to find names for those QiY roles currently nominated by this committee so it may be asked to continue.

The Clerk has responded to a number of questions on aspects of the merger.

QYT-2025-09-06 Yorkshire Quaker Camp

We receive a report (QYT-2025-09-02) on the first Yorkshire Quaker Camp, held at Fell Edge Farm, near Ilkley, from Friday 8 August to Monday 11 August 2025. This report includes feedback from participants.

The Camp was fully booked for 90 places, but last minute cancellations meant that there were 82 participants, including 28 children and 11 young adults. It was considered to be a great success with a strong wish by participants for another camp next year. The multiple positive outcomes included: strengthening the sense of community among participants particularly among the children and young people; providing a positive Quaker experience; and demonstrating the potential of Quaker worship in a vibrant community.

The weather was favourable and this meant that some negative aspects of a simple camp-site with limited facilities did not detract from the many positives.

The finances for this year's camp are satisfactory. The agreed subsidy of £2,195 is likely to be lower at about £1,300.

We send our warm thanks to all those who helped to make the Camp a success.

The Planning Group quickly decided to book a camp site for 2026. They agreed for the need for a bigger and more comprehensive camp site. After consultation with the Clerk, they have booked the Thornthwaite Scout Centre in Nidderdale for 6-9 August 2026. A deposit of £600 has been paid.

We approve the outline budget for the 2026 camp with a QiY subsidy at the same budget level as this year, namely £2,195.

QYT-2025-09-07 Youth Activities

David Heslop has given an encouraging report on the youth activities this summer. These have been very competently led by our Youth Development Worker (Jo Baynham).

The Holiday School had 47 participants and 13 student helpers.

The Link Group is considering how to respond to the large number wishing to take part.

Further to minute QYT-2025-06-04 at our last meeting we record an in-between meeting decision by email to purchase a tent at a cost of £795. This, and other items are being stored at Squirrel Self-Storage Facility, Regent Street, Leeds, at a cost of £60 per month with the first two months free.

QYT-2025-09-08 York Schools

Further to minute QYT-2025-06-08 at our last meeting, we receive paper QYT-2025-09-04. David Bunney and Digby Swift have described developments since June. They had productive meetings with governors of both Bootham and The Mount. One outcome was the agreement to defer any changes to the procedure for appointing governors and how the schools are accountable to QiY. This means deferring a revised Memorandum of Understanding.

In consultation with the Clerk, the decision was made to take the matter to the July quarterly meeting so as to obtain approval for QiY Trustees to act on the meetings behalf. The last part of QiY Minute 8 states:

Revised Deeds of Variation and revised Articles of Association were received from the Schools on 5 September. These have been reviewed by David Bunney and Digby Swift and found to be satisfactory.

The School lawyers confirm that clause 5.2 in the Deed of Direction which indemnifies QiY against any property claim "

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To strengthen the indemnity for QiY they have inserted an additional clause into the Articles to protect QiY from any form of risk arising from the Schools' operations as follows:

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We agree that the Deed of Variation is now satisfactory.

We authorise the Clerk to sign the Deeds of Variation (one for Bootham and one for The Mount).

We ask David Bunney and Digby Swift to continue to work with the Schools on the outstanding issues.

QYT-2025-09-09 Financial Matters (paper 2025-09-05)

2024 Annual Report and Accounts

These were filed with the Charity Commission on 22 July 2025.

2025 Annual Report and Accounts

We agree that the procedure for producing and examining the 2025 Accounts should be the same as this year – which went very smoothly.

Annual Investment Review

We ask the Treasurer to arrange the annual investment review with Greenbank. We thank Digby Swift for agreeing to join the review.

Financial Report

We receive the financial report for the period to 5 September 2025 and Roy Love has spoken to it. The finances are satisfactory.

Forecast for 2026

The level of QiY activities in 2026 is likely to be similar to 2025. The regular costs of insurance, audit fees, accountancy costs, support costs, safeguarding subscriptions should increase in line with inflation.

The youth activities (Holiday School, Link Group, Junior Holidays) are expected to follow this year's pattern. There will be a second Yorkshire Quaker Camp in August 2026. Thus the level of subsidy to provide support for families should be similar to this year. There will be no formal Easter Settlement.

Predictions of requests for building grants and outreach grants are always very unpredictable. The money for grants comes from investment income which should be a similar level to recent years. There will be some costs associated with merging into Yorkshire Quakers but these are one off so fund-able from reserves.

In consequence, the financial forecast for 2026 should be comparable to 2025 and 2024 with both income and expenditure between £70,000 and £75,000. The level of inflation in the UK is predicted to be 2.3%.

This means that the level of contributions from AMs can, in principle, remain at £5 per member.

Applications for grants

The Outreach Projects Committee has recommended a grant of £1,500 to support Wakefield meeting's work with refugees and asylum seekers.

We endorse this recommendation.

QYT-2025-09-10 Outreach Projects Committee

We receive a paper on the future options for the Outreach Projects Committee (paper QYT-2025-09-06). The Committee in its current form has existed since 2013. For most of the 20th century, in the form of Quaker Outreach Yorkshire, it was very active both with regional activities and supporting local outreach. But in recent years, it has only considered applications for grants. Also it has suffered from the inability to find a clerk; high turn-over of members and no in-built knowledge base because there have been only a few applications each year. Budgeting has been difficult because of the small and unpredictable number of applications. Most recent applications have been for community projects which, whilst worth supporting, are not traditional outreach. The members of the Outreach Projects Committee are nominated by AM Nominations Committees and appointed by QiY in session.

We have discussed the options for the future as outlined in the paper and agree that supporting outreach projects is important. However, the goal of simplification leads us to recommend to QiY in session that the Outreach Project Committee has fulfilled its mission and the time has come to lay the committee down. Grants can still be available with applications assessed by QiY Trustees in a similar way to grants for buildings. Before this we seek the views of the Outreach Projects Committee.

QYT-2025-09-11 Annual Risk Register

We have undertaken our annual review of the Risk Register. We have done this by reviewing the 2024 Risk Register (paper QYT-2025-09-07). Most entries are fine. We note that there is the need for storage of safeguarding documents (D2). There is also the need for a Strategic Plan (A1) but this is now likely to be developed by Yorkshire Quakers. The Clerk will place a copy of this 2025 Risk Register on the website.

QYT-2025-09-12 Dates of meetings in 2026

We agree to plan to meet on the following dates in 2026 – recognising that meetings will only be needed until the merger into Yorkshire Quakers happens.

Saturday 14 February 2026

Saturday 20 June 2026

Saturday 19 September 2026.

All meetings will be held at Carlton Hill meeting house, Leeds.

QYT-2025-09-13 Date of next meeting

Saturday 14 February 2026, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds