

**Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees**  
**Minutes for meeting held at Carlton Hill and online**  
**on Saturday 14 February 2026**

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

**Prevented:**

Quaker Faith & Practice 19.61 has been read in our opening worship.

**QYT-2026-02-01. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2025 have been circulated electronically and received today.

**QYT-2026-02-02. Trustees**

We receive paper QYT-2026-02-02 with a list of serving trustees. We agree that Digby Swift will continue as an Observer until such time as Quakers in Yorkshire is merged into Yorkshire Quakers.

**QYT-2026-02-03. Clerk's Report**

We receive paper QYT-2026-02-03 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: October quarterly meeting, January quarterly meeting, future meetings, Safeguarding Coordinator, Quarterly newsletter, CAF banking, Finance Administrator.

**QYT-2026-02-04. Outreach Projects Committee**

Further to minute QYT-2025-09-10 of our last meeting, QiY in session in January 2026 did not feel ready to agree to lay down the Outreach Projects Committee. Due to timing the session was not provided with the reasoning and background beforehand.

The Outreach Projects Committee should continue to operate as it has done for the last few years and assess applications made by local meetings for grants to support outreach projects.

The initial budget for 2026 should be £2,000 which comes from the annual contributions made by Area Meetings. Publicity to Friends and Meetings in Yorkshire is needed to promote the availability of grants for outreach.

**QYT-2026-02-05. Ravensworth Lodge**

Ravensworth Lodge has now been sold and the Yorkshire Friends Housing Society which owned the property is in the process of being wound up.

It has always been unclear as to whether Quakers in Yorkshire was a formal shareholder of the Yorkshire Friends Housing Society but in order to enable the winding up to proceed we agree to terminate, or surrender, any shareholding.

## **QYT-2026-02-06. Yorkshire Quakers**

### a) Progress with Implementation

We receive paper QYT-2026-02-04 with a summary of progress towards implementing the new charity Yorkshire Quakers to which QiY will merge. A major consultation of Area Meetings and Local Meetings has recently finished and the responses are being studied so that firm proposals as to how Yorkshire Quakers might operate can be prepared. Yorkshire Quakers Trustees have started meeting and Digby Swift has given us a short briefing on their recent meeting.

Relatively little consideration has been given as to how QiY will be merged into Yorkshire Quakers. This can be divided into the charitable side and the activities.

### b) Bank account for Yorkshire Quakers

In order to facilitate the initial operation of Yorkshire Quakers, we agree to hold and expend funds by Acting as Agent on behalf of the Trustees of Yorkshire Quakers. This account will hold the set-up funds contributed by Area Meetings so as to enable Yorkshire Quakers to start operating.

### c) QiY charity

The proposed Yorkshire Quakers charity will consist of up to 7 AM charities and the QiY Charity of which we are the trustees. Since we own no property and employ no staff, we should be the simplest to merge. It is therefore currently proposed that we should be the first to merge. The timescale for the merger has yet to be proposed by the Implementation Group and will partly depend on when the Charity Commission approves the application to register. Before merger a Due Diligence exercise is needed and details of the Endowed and Restricted Funds are required.

We suggest holding an online meeting between representatives of QiY Trustees and representatives of Yorkshire Quakers Trustees to talk about the merger.

### d) QiY activities

Paper QYT-2026-02-04 contains the record of a meeting of the QiY clerks and our clerk which reviewed the various QiY activities. Constitutionally, it is QiY in session which makes decisions over activities, so our role is to make recommendations.

The principle should be to simplify our structures so the aim is to provide QiY activities efficiently and ideally with fewer role-holders.

We had a general discussion on the items in the paper.

We record that the future of QiY quarterly meetings and whether they merge into Yorkshire Quakers General Meetings, or are retained as separate meetings, needs further consideration.

We ask David Bunney and Digby Swift to continue to liaise with the governors of Bootham School and The Mount School to recommend the future oversight and governance arrangements.

The YQ Trustees have asked for a slot at the April 2026 QiY quarterly meeting in order to start Members considering what Vision might be developed for YQ. However, the Arrangements Committee has agreed a very specific agenda for the April meeting. It is designed so as to appeal to the needs of enquiries and newer Friends. Hence, we support the proposal from Yorkshire Quakers Trustees to produce a short publication which will encourage all Friends in Yorkshire to start considering a strategic vision.

## **QYT-2026-02-07. Yorkshire Youth Activities**

### Children and young people activities

We are pleased to record that there is a comprehensive programme of children and young people activities in the first quarter of 2026. This is largely thanks to the careful nurturing given by Jo Baynham for whom we are very grateful. We warmly support him and the volunteer organisers of Junior Holidays, Link Group, Holiday School and the day activities.

### Bursary Fund

We receive proposals to set up a Bursary Fund for children and young people (papers QYT-2026-02-05). This has been prepared by Christine Abbott and Jo Baynham. Christine has spoken to it.

The aim would be to replace the current ad-hoc system where applicants apply to their local meeting, or QiY, or another fund, by a single QiY bursary fund which aims to be unified, equitable and responsive. The papers set out an administrative framework which would rely on the QiY Finance Administrator undertaking some of the organisation.

We agree to set up a Bursary Fund as outlined in the paper. There should be an appeal for funds which can then form the core of the QiY Bursary Fund.

We ask Christine Abbott and Jo Baynham to establish the Fund, in conjunction with the Clerk of Trustees and the Treasurer. It will be important to gain access to the experiences of deciding bursaries in Area and Local Meetings.

## **QYT-2026-02-08. Yorkshire Quaker Camp 2026**

Paper QYT-2026-02-06 is received with a summary of the arrangements for the second Yorkshire Quaker Camp to be held 6 to 9 August 2026 at the Thornthwaite Activity Centre near Harrogate. This is a larger venue compared to last year and should give the organisers more flexibility. The charges are the same as last year with the aim of making the Camp accessible to a wide range of Friends, families and young people.

## **QYT-2026-02-09. Safeguarding**

Ruth McTighe has updated us on developments with safeguarding. We agree that the outstanding revision on our Safeguarding Policy should wait until Britain Yearly Meeting has published a revised model policy. This is expected later in the year.

## **QYT-2026-02-10. Financial report**

We receive paper QYT-2026-02-07 with a financial summary for the year ending 31 December 2025.

Performance overall was similar to the previous year, with a small increase in the capital value of the investments, about the same annual income from investments and turnover of the youth activities in line with expectations.

We expect that the pattern of expenditure in 2026 should be the same as 2025. Consequently the contribution requested by Area Meetings should be the same as last year, namely £5 per member (based on the 2025 Tabular Statement).

We thank the organisers of the QiY activities for continuing to keep costs as low as feasible so that the charges to payees is reduced to the minimum.

### **QYT-2026-02-11. Annual Report and Accounts for 2025**

The Clerk has prepared a draft annual report for 2025 (paper QYT-2026-02-08). We have reviewed the report and accept it with amendments, noting that the Financial Review needs to be written when the outline accounts are available.

#### Annual review of Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy states 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 the anticipated expenditure for the year ahead. This year, the unrestricted reserves are expected to satisfy the Reserves Policy.

#### Preparation and examination of Annual Accounts for 2025

We ask our Treasurer to provide Crozier Jones (Doncaster) with the necessary accounts and associated documents so that they can compile the 2025 annual accounts and then 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.

### **QYT-2026-02-12. Investments**

A meeting of the Investment Group (Treasurer, Clerk, Digby Swift) was held with Rathbone Greenbank on 28 October 2025 and a report is received (paper QYT-2026-02-09). The performance of the QiY investments over the last year was reviewed. The US and UK stock markets indices performed well in 2025 but this was driven by stocks which our highly ethical policy precludes (defence, mining, fossil fuels, large technology companies etc). Consequently the QiY investments either showed a small decrease or were static.

We confirm the in-between meeting decision to agree to move the investment management of the Building Fund and Forrest Fund into the Greenbank Sustainable Growth Fund which is where the QiY General Fund currently resides. This will simplify the investment portfolio and slightly reduce the charges at the expense of a slightly less tight ethical criteria.

We have heard that Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees have moved away from Rathbone Greenbank as their investment managers. For the present, we agree to retain Rathbone Greenbank but recommend that in future Yorkshire Quakers Trustees should consider alternative investment arrangements and also review the ethical investment policy to perhaps include positive investment criteria.

### **QYT-2026-02-13. Grant application**

We have received an applications from Brighouse West Yorkshire AM for funds to continue to maintain the Brighouse Burial Ground in a good state (paper QYT-2026-02-10). This is an annual application for which we have been able to contribute about half the cost. We agree to give a grant of £885 from the Buildings Fund.

### **QYT-2026-02-14. Date of next meeting**

Saturday 20 June 2026, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds