

Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees
Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 20 June 2026

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

Prevented: Dawn Beck.

Quaker Faith & Practice 15.01 has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2026-06-01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2026 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2026-06-02. Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2026-06-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: Quarterly meeting – April, July, October, future meetings; Quarterly newsletter; Yearly Meeting May 2026; Continuing Yearly Meetings; Residential Yearly Meeting at Hull July 2027; Membership numbers in 2025 Tabular Statement.

QYT-2026-06-03. Safeguarding

We receive the annual safeguarding report (paper QYT-2026-06-03) which has been prepared by Ruth McTighe (Lead Trustee for Safeguarding) and Liz Schweiger (Deputy QiY Safeguarding Coordinator).

Ruth has spoken to the report. We note the amendment to Item 14. The revised QiY Safeguarding Policy is currently being written now that BYM have published guidance. She hopes to have it ready later in the year.

We approve the annual report and thank Ruth and Liz for preparing the report.

We note the ongoing difficulty that QiY Nominations Committee is having in finding Friends to be QiY Safeguarding Coordinators. We have discussed how to deal with the matter, particularly in the period until Yorkshire Quakers takes over. We agree to explore the possibility of paying a professional safeguarding administrator. We ask Ruth and the Clerk to pursue options and bring proposals to our September meeting. We will also further discuss the role of Safeguarding Coordinators at that meeting.

QYT-2026-06-04. Yorkshire Quakers

Paper QYT-2026-06-04 is received which gives a summary of the current state of the merger of QiY and the seven Area Meetings into Yorkshire Quakers. The formal side is held up by delays in the Charity Commission considering the application to register Yorkshire Quakers as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). However the Implementation Group is actively progressing the merger process with consideration of how finance, property, employment and safeguarding should be organised in the new Yorkshire wide structure.

(a) Set-up funds

The Yorkshire Quakers Trustees have asked Area Meetings to contribute towards a set-up fund of £35,000 which equates to £20 per member and adult attender. The money will be held in our bank account until Yorkshire Quakers have their own bank account.

When merger takes place, all the funds in QiY bank accounts will pass to Yorkshire Quakers.

Most of the unrestricted income for QiY comes from the contributions made by Area Meetings. This is given to QiY to fund the regular activities and in recent years has been used to support the youth activities which has enabled many families to send their children on QiY sponsored youth events.

We agree that, if necessary, our unrestricted reserves can be used as cash to enable Yorkshire Quakers to start operating before merger.

(b) Legal Advice

The Yorkshire Quakers Implementation Group recommends that all Area Meetings and QiY use Schofield Sweeney Solicitors to provide legal advice and services for the merger into Yorkshire Quakers. We approve the use of Schofield Sweeney as our legal advisors and we agree to pay our share of the costs.

(c) Due Diligence Questionnaire

We receive the draft Due Diligence questionnaire completed for QiY by David Olver. We approve it, as amended. We note that we need to follow up on the employment status of our Finance Administrator.

(d) QiY Activities

We have discussed how we should recommend that the activities of QiY continue into and after the merger.

Because of the uncertainty over when the Charity Commission will consider the application to register Yorkshire Quakers and hence the date of formal merger we recommend that all QiY activities and committees plan to continue as now.

Youth activities are currently very successful so they should continue uninterrupted to develop as led. The cost of the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker is currently paid by the seven Area Meetings. We note and agree with the proposal that this cost should move to Yorkshire Quakers.

(e) Nominations Committee

There is now a Yorkshire Quakers Nominations Committee (consisting of the convenors of AM Nominations Committees) which is currently tasked only with finding role-holders and trustees for Yorkshire Quakers.

Until a decision is made we suggest that the current QiY Nominations Committee continue with the remit of finding the essential roles (e.g. safeguarding coordinators) and members of Under 19s Committee and Arrangements Committee.

(f) Quarterly Meetings

We recommend that our Quarterly Meetings continue to be held, normally on the third Saturday in January, April, July and October in 2027. This is until the Yorkshire Quakers General Meeting decides how to organise Yorkshire wide meetings.

QYT-2026-06-05. Youth Activities

We receive the encouraging report from Jo Baynham on the Youth Activities in Yorkshire (paper QYT-2026-06-05). The residential events are nearly always full. The Link Group at Harrogate in March had 19 young people and Junior Holidays at Hesley Wood in May had 28 attenders. Upcoming shortly are a Link Group weekend at Worfolk Cottage and Inters at Ilkley Meeting House. This will be the first holiday cycle using the new split age group model. The needs of an 11 year old and an 18 year old are different so are best served by separate events. The new Inters Holidays are intended for school years 6 to 9 and the Link Group for years 10 to 13.

Alongside the residential programme Jo also facilitates a full programme of daily youth activities.

We warmly welcome the expanded range of activities and are particularly grateful for the volunteers who give their time and energy to supporting the activities. We are also grateful for the ongoing support provided by the Regional Support Group.

We are glad to support the QiY youth work volunteers BBQ on 31 August. We agree to cover the costs of the event and the travel expenses of participants.

QYT-2026-06-06. Yorkshire Quaker Camp

Paper QYT-2026-06-06 is received which summarises the current position with the second Yorkshire Quaker Camp to be held at Thornthwaite Camp Site, near Harrogate, from 6 to 9 August 2026. As at 7 June 2026, 92 places were filled with nearly 40% children and young people. Compared to last year there is expected to be a broader spread of ages and more of an intergenerational community.

The planning group has met regularly and there has recently been a pre-camp social in Leeds. Based on current numbers, they expect to be comfortably within the agreed budget. We are encouraged by the effort of all those involved and wish the Camp every success.

QYT-2026-06-07. Annual Report and Accounts for 2025

We receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 (paper QYT-2026-06-07). These have been prepared and examined by Crozier Jones. This is the second year that they have prepared the Accounts and again the process has gone very smoothly.

There is one amendment to the text of the Annual Report and Accounts.

We approve the amended Annual Report and Accounts for 2025 and authorise the Clerk to sign them, together with the annual Letter of Representation.

They will be filed with the Charity Commission after they have been adopted by the July Quarterly Meeting.

We thank Crozier Jones for their work and agree to re-appoint them to prepare and examine the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2026. We also thank Roy Love for his work compiling the data for the preparation of the accounts.

QYT-2026-06-08. Financial matters

(a) Financial summary of year to date

We receive paper QYT-2026-06-08 with a financial summary prepared by Roy Love for the year to date.

(b) Grant application

We endorse the recommendation from the Outreach Projects Committee to award a grant of £500 to Skipton Meeting for a peace outreach project.

(c) Investments

We note that Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees have reviewed their investment manager. As a result they have changed management from Rathbone Greenbank who pursued a similar policy as they do for our investments. The BYM funds are now with Royal London Asset Management.

With the forthcoming merger into Yorkshire Quakers, now is not the time to review our investment managers. However we recommend that this should be done at the appropriate time.

QYT-2026-06-9. Book of Members and Attenders

The Book of Members and Attenders has been published every three years. If this pattern is followed then the next edition will be in early 2027 with compilation in the autumn of this year. Financially, the current edition sold for £6 and produced a small surplus.

The Book is valued by Friends throughout Yorkshire so we agree to sponsor the 2027 Book of Members and Attenders.

The last four editions have been compiled by David Olver who is willing to coordinate the compilation and publication of the 2027 edition. We thank David for being willing to do the task.

QYT-2026-02-10. Date of next meeting

Saturday 19 September 2026, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds

David Olver

20 June 2026