

Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees
Minutes for meeting
held at Carlton Hill on Saturday 19 September 2026

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

Prevented: Dawn Beck, David Bunney, Judy Shorney.

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.02 (part) has been read in our opening worship.

QYT-2026-09-01 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2026 have been circulated electronically and received today.

QYT-2026-09-02 Clerk's Report

We receive paper QYT-2026-09-02 with the Clerk's report. This covers the following items: July quarterly meeting; July Yearly Meeting, QiY and YQ Nominations, 2027 Book of Members and Attenders, Yorkshire Quakers.

QYT-2026-09-03 Safeguarding

Ruth McTighe has updated us on safeguarding matters. There have been two issues over the last period, both concerning volunteers. They have been dealt with correctly.

We are pleased to hear that Nomination Committee is making progress with finding a Safeguarding Coordinator from January 2027. Extensive advertising is in progress.

We have discussed how to ensure that the administrative side of our safeguarding responsibilities is fulfilled until merger. We ask Ruth and the Clerk to progress the matter.

QYT-2026-09-04 Yorkshire Quakers

We receive paper QYT-2026-09-03 with items concerning the forthcoming merger of Quakers in Yorkshire charity into the now registered Yorkshire Quakers charity. This includes a summary of the current status.

The chosen legal advisor – Schofield Sweeney – decided that they did not have the capacity to act for us (minute QYT-2026-06-04 (b) refers). The Implementation Group and Yorkshire Quakers Trustees are in the process of selecting another firm. We agree to accept their choice and pay our share of the costs.

We note the steps in the process of merging and ask the Clerk to facilitate the actions needed and keep us all informed. We agree to take decisions between meetings by email if appropriate.

Future Quarterly Meetings

We agree that it is important for our loyal supporters that there should be continuing opportunities for meeting quarterly around Yorkshire with the purpose of fellowship and inspiration for our worship and witness. The Yorkshire Quakers General Meetings will be

responsible for deciding what form such meetings take and when and where they are held. But in the interim we hope that the QiY Arrangements Committee can set up meetings for 2027.

QiY and YQ Nominations Committees

We thank the Convenors of the QiY and YQ Nominations Committees for setting down the current situation and proposing how to deal with the nominations for QiY roles which will be needed after merger.

We support the proposal to expand the remit of the YQ Nominations Committee by increasing its membership and dealing with the QiY roles as set out in the paper. We do have some reservations about the proposals for how to deal with appointing the governors of Bootham and The Mount Schools through a specific York Schools General Meeting.

We forward the paper and this minute to YQ Trustees,

Trustees periods of service

The periods of service of QiY Trustees is:

To end 2026: David Olver (Clerk), Roy Love (Acting Treasurer to end 2026), Dawn Beck (Brighouse West Yorkshire), Pat Gerwat (Leeds), Christine Abbott (York).

To end 2027: Ruth McTighe (Central Yorkshire), Judy Shorney (Craven & Keighley)..

We suggest to Nominations Committee and Quarterly Meeting that the period of service for the Clerk and Trustees whose term ends this year should be extended to the close of the charity.

QYT-2026-09-05 Youth Activities

We receive a report from Jo Baynham on his work as Yorkshire Youth Development Worker (QYT-2026-09-04). The report is most encouraging and demonstrates the large amount that is being achieved. We are most grateful to Jo for his work.

The youth activities in Yorkshire have grown considerably and this has included developing a cohesive framework so that young people can move in a joined up way through the offerings sponsored by QiY – Junior Holidays, Inters Holidays, Link Group, Holiday School.

In addition to these QiY sponsored events, Jo has also helped establish a series of day activities such as Big Questions and Rewilding Quakers which adds positively to the youth offerings.

We note that his workload is reaching the limit of his operational capacity. We hope that Britain Yearly Meeting, aided by the Support Group, can ensure that it is not exceeded.

We are most grateful for the work of the teams of volunteers, without which the activities would not be possible.

Youth Financial Assistance Fund

The Bursary Fund which we approved at our February 2026 meeting (minute QYT-2026-02-07) is now up and running. It is called the Youth Financial Assistance Fund. An appeal was placed in the July QiY newsletter and donations have been received into the QiY bank account.

Jo Baynham and Christine Abbott have the task of allocating bursary funds. The largest set of requests for bursary support comes from this year's Holiday School but it is not clear how much is covered by their own finances.

The Youth Financial Assistance Fund should increase access for young people with fewer financial resources.

QYT-2026-09-06 Yorkshire Quaker Camp

We receive a report (QYT-2026-09-05) on the second Yorkshire Quaker Camp, held at Thornthwaite Activity Centre from 6 to 9 August 2026.

This was considered to be a great success. There were 115 participants, up from 82 last year. This included 18 children aged 0-10, 16 young people aged 11-15 and six young adults attending without children. Most participants were families but there was a good proportion of older Friends.

Feedback was very positive with thanks for the mixed programme which included worship for an hour each morning and for half-an-hour each evening.

There were no safeguarding issues during the weekend.

The budget agreed with us included a projected subsidy of £2,150 to support financial inclusivity across all ages. In practise only £231.42 was needed because costs were lower than expected.

The Planning Group of 11 Friends worked well with Jo Baynham and Craig Barnett serving as camp secretaries. The Group included both returning members from last year and several new members.

They agreed that the Thornthwaite Activity Centre works well for an event of this scale and hope to return next year. A provisional booking has been made for 5 to 8 August 2027.

We are happy to endorse this booking for 2027 and agree that the deposit of £600 should be paid.

We thank all those who contributed to making the second Yorkshire Quaker Camp a great success, including the volunteers, the Planning Group and our Local and Youth Development Workers.

QYT-2026-09-07 Financial Matters (paper 2026-09-06)

Financial Report

We receive a financial report for the period to 5 September 2026 and Roy Love has spoken to it. The finances are satisfactory. The bank balances include the Acting as Agent funds which we have been managing for Yorkshire Quakers. These will be transferred to the new Yorkshire Quakers CAF bank account.

Forecast for 2027

It is expected that Yorkshire Quakers will be responsible for most, if not all, the year. But it is worth forecasting expectations based on recent years experience.

The level of QiY activities in 2027 is likely to be mostly similar to 2026. The regular costs of insurance, accountancy costs, support costs, safeguarding subscriptions should increase in line with inflation. There is uncertainty over the audit fees (see below).

The youth activities (Holiday School, Inters Group, Link Group, Junior Holidays) are expected to follow this year's pattern. There will be a third Yorkshire Quaker Camp in August 2027. Thus the level of subsidy to provide support for young people and families should be similar to this year.

The number of requests for building grants and outreach grants are always very unpredictable. The money for building 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 2027 should be comparable to 2026 and 2025 with both income and expenditure between £70,000 and £75,000. The level of inflation in the UK is predicted to be around 2.3%.

2025 Annual Report and Accounts

These were filed with the Charity Commission on 27 July 2026.

2026 Annual Report and Accounts

For the last two years, Crozier Jones (Doncaster) have compiled our Annual Accounts using input provided by us. This is in addition to examining them (which they have done for many years). From our perspective, this has been very positive and relieved us of considerable effort. This year they charged £1,440 (inc. VAT).

However they have now told us that they have been significantly undercharging us and that they can only act for us in the future if they increase their fees to a more realistic level which is likely to be above £5,000.

We have considered options for how to deal with this situation. We agree that we need professional support to compile our 2026 Annual Accounts. There may be the possibility of using a contractor who is familiar with Quaker accounting. We ask the Clerk to take this forward with other Trustees.

Annual Investment Review

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

Applications for grants

We have received an application from Friargate Meeting, York, for a grant to upgrade the audio system in the large meeting room. The present auditability for worshipping and hiring groups is unsatisfactory. A demonstration of the proposed new system was "impressive".

We agree to a grant from the Forrest (Meeting House) Fund of £6,000.

QYT-2026-09-09 Annual Risk Register

We have undertaken our annual review of the Risk Register. We have done this by reviewing the 2025 Risk Register (paper QYT-2026-09-07). Most entries are fine but we note a few corrections which will be implemented. The major uncertainty is the merger with Yorkshire Quakers and whether the Yorkshire Quakers Trustees continue with the same activities as now forecast.

The Clerk will place a copy of this 2026 Risk Register on the website.

QYT-2026-09-10 Dates of meetings in 2027

There is considerable uncertainty over when the merger with Yorkshire Quakers will happen and whether it will be necessary to have some residual trustee oversight until the QiY charity finally closes. Hence it seems prudent to book the same pattern of three trustee meetings in 2027.

Saturday 13 February 2027

Saturday 19 June 2027

Saturday 18 September 2027.

If the meetings take place, they will be held at Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds.

QYT-2026-09-11 Date of next meeting

Saturday 13 February 2027, 10.30 to 13.00, Carlton Hill, Leeds

David Olver
19 September 2026