

YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

Brighton Friends Meeting House

23rd – 25th October 2009

Minutes

Present:

Co-Clerks:	Cáit Gould & Siobhan Haire
YFGM Treasurer:	Andrew Rendle
YFGM Finance Officer:	Eleanor Coss
Co-Convener of Overseers:	Hugh Williams
Management Officer:	Tom Rowlands
Coordinator:	Hugo Finley

Area Meeting Representatives:

Maud Grainger - Colchester and Coggeshall AM
Jenny McCathy – York
Katharine McIntosh - Cambridge & Peterborough
Mark Russ - London West Area Meeting
Ericka Smith - South East Scotland

Those Present:

Sam Barnett-Cormack, Laura Banks, Jennifer Brett, Serena Britton, Stephen Clement, Paul Dodwell, Bryony Elias, Caitlin Elizondo, Lucy Entwistle, Toby Gibbons, Ian Goggin, Catrin Harries, Ben Jarman, Jessica Kellgren-Hayes, Isabel Lane, Laura Maffei, Ged Manning, Rebecca Mattingly, Alice McIlveen, Jessica Metheringham Owlett, Maurice Nagington, John Nicholls, Sally Nicholls, Peter Parr, Lailah Peel, Leto Peel, Helen Percy, Nick Rendle, Katrina Richter, Oliver Robertson, Rosie Robison, Helen Sims, Kristin Ethel Skarsholt, Charlotte Smith, Jez Smith, Hannah Spiers, Majk Stokes, Thomas Taylor, Kris Turner, Edward Ullathorne, Helen Vickers, Andrew Williams, Laura Wirtz

Total 55

09/37 Opening Minute

We welcome one another to Young Friends General Meeting this October in Brighton.

We look forward to getting to know one another further over the weekend.

09/38 Planning Weekend Report

We heard from Lailah Peel and Jenny McCarthy on their experiences of Planning Weekend which was held in Edinburgh from September 4th – 6th this year.

09/39 Salary Bracket Increase for YFGM co-ordinator

We have heard from Tom Rowlands, management officer, regarding changes in the pay scale of our employee. We feel that changing the pay scale from £14,000-£16,000 pro rata, to £16,000-£18,000 pro rata is the appropriate decision, reflecting the nature of and skills required for the post of the co-ordinator.

09/40 Volunteer amendment

Rebecca Mattingly will not be able to cater at this YFGM. We thank her for her help and the remaining catering volunteers who cook on.

09/41 Limits for signatories – Change in Finance Policy

Further to minute 09/39 we agree to make necessary changes to the finance policy to enable the salary of our coordinator to be paid in full by our employment fund treasurer each month. The new wording in section 1.i) shall read that, “Two signatories shall be required for withdrawals from the Employment Fund Current Account for amounts in excess of £900; for all other accounts two signatures shall be required for withdrawals from the accounts for amounts in excess of £700.”

09/42 Zero Growth Conference Report and Feedback

We have heard a report from John Nicholls, Katharine McIntosh and Majk Stokes on the first part of the two part Zero-Growth Economy conference which was held at Friends’ House. We thank them for this report and look forward to continuing to engage our thoughts on this issue for feedback to the seminar at Woodbrooke next weekend.

09/43 Accounts

Our Finance Officer, Eleanor Coss has very clearly presented us with the 2008 accounts. We approve these accounts which have been signed off by our trustees to be submitted to the charity commission. We thank Finance Committee, our coordinator, and the independent examiner for preparing these accounts, and so diligently repaying appeal funds to previous concerns.

09/44 Yearly Meeting Gathering Feedback

We have heard a thoughtful report on Yearly Meeting Gathering '09 from Tom Rowlands, and Maurice Nagington, focusing on their impressions of the week, particularly on their responses to minute 25 concerning committed relationships and same-sex marriage. We reflected on this decision through creative listening in small groups. We as individuals have had the opportunity to write our responses and reflections on this issue. We ask Toby Gibbons and Ester Leighton, our Meeting For Sufferings representatives, to bring our response to Meeting For Sufferings.

09/45 'Who wants to be a Quillionaire?' Considering YFGM's 2010 budget

Our Finance Committee have led us in an interactive session, asking us to take responsibility for YFGM's budget by allocating it as we would wish. We thank them for this opportunity to creatively engage with our priorities for funding.

09/46 Pardshaw

We have heard from Majk Stokes of our Pardshaw Moving Forward Group. He reported on the ongoing liaison between Young Friends General Meeting and West Cumbria Area Meeting in the period since the hand over of the young friends centre

referred to by us as 'Pardshaw'. It has become apparent that West Cumbria Area Meeting do not have the resources - monetary or physical - with which to up-keep the historical building. They are at this time undecided as to a way forward.

We wish to support them prayerfully and will collect names at the end of this session to build an informal mailing list, which can involve ex-YFGMers and old Pardshaw members to keep informed of ongoing development. We thank the Pardshaw Moving Forward Working Group for their work on this.

09/47 Finance Policy – Amendments – Events Co-ordinator

Further to minute 09/09 where we created the new role of Events Co-ordinator we accept the changes to the finance policy as presented by Jennifer Brett and Sam Barnett-Cormack, and we will amend as required (see sheet attached). We thank Jennifer and the finance committee for their work on this matter.

09/48 Quintessential Quaker Business Method Event

We feel strongly that we wish Quinty to put on an event in the name of YFGM to bring the Quaker Business Method to other Friends. We ask that Quintessential bring a budget to January planning weekend.

09/49 NFPB Conference Attendance – Minute of Record

We record Rachel Swancott's attendance at the Northern Friends' Peace Board conference on the 13th June 2009.

09/50 Quintessential Co-option – Minute of Record

Thank you Becca, thank you Ben, we hope that you will come again, because your breath is fresh and minty, we're grateful that you were on Quinty. So your expenses will be paid, we thank you with this serenade.

Because that doesn't include the necessary information: We thank Rebecca Mattingly for attending Planning Weekend as a co-opted member of Quintessential in Edinburgh this September 4th – 6th and to both her and Ben Jarman for agreeing to serve on Quintessential this weekend in Brighton.

09/51 Nominations

We appoint the following people to serve in the following ways for the periods stated.

We release from service those mentioned warmly thanking them for all their work on our behalf.

Position	Released	Appointed	Until
Nominations Committee	Ellen Elliot	Jenny McCarthy	October 2011
Young Quaker Editors	Joe Thwaites	Jess Kellgren-Hayes	October 2012
Overseers	Kat Richter Lucy Entwistle	Kristen Skarsholt Carried over	October 2011
Living Witness Project Reps	Joe Thwaites Ruth Wood	Helen Percy Jenny McCarthy	October 2011
Co-ordinator's Support Group	Sally Nicholls	Reappointed	October 2010
Special Interest Group Co-ordinator	Nicola Bowerman	Jessica Metheringham-Owlett	October 2011
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Ian Goggin Lailah Peel Jenny McCarthy	Ged Manning Serena Britton Rosie Robison	February 2010
Inter-church/Inter-faith Secretary	Nicola Bowerman	Katharine McIntosh	October 2012
Leaveners Management Committee Rep	Kat Richter	Nick Rendle	October 2012
Co-convenor of Overseers	Carried Over	Carried Over	
Convenor of Outreach	Carried Over	Toby Gibbons	October 2010
Quintessential	Rach Sewell	Rebecca Mattingly	October 2012
QPSW Rep	Majk Stokes	Extended	February 2010
NFPB Rep	Carried Over	Carried Over	
Pardshaw Moving-Forward working Group	Majk Stokes Chris Hanning	Committee Laid Down	

09/52 Zero Growth Conference Attendance – Minute of Record

Further to minute 09/51, as a QPSW representative for YFGM we appoint Majk Stokes to serve as our representative to attend the Zero Growth Conference at Woodbrooke from Friday October 30th until Sunday November 1st 2009.

09/53 Special Interest Groups Minute

This weekend the following Special Interest Groups were offered for our enjoyment:

An Exploration of Sustainable Living

The Quaker Message in the Digital Age

Making Friendship Bracelets

RISE, a domestic violence victim support charity: possible appeal group

Firefly, a youth reconciliation project in Bosnia: possible appeal group

Not all groups were attended, however we thank all those who offered to run Special Interest Groups for their work, especially those from outside YFGM.

09/54 Crèche facilities policy update – Minute of Record

Further to minute 09/08 Mary Estall is unable to bring the finalised policy to this YFGM. We ask that Katharine McIntosh bring a completed policy to the earliest possible Planning Weekend for consideration by YFGM.

09/55 Clerks' Offering

"We have heard the offering opposite from our clerks of YFGM".

We have enjoyed our time together in Brighton this October. Our gathering has been enriched by the presence of both newcomers and old friends and we hope that all will take away a sense of spiritual community from our weekend together.

We marked 350 day by creating a pebble and human sculpture on Brighton beach, and despite inclement weather we hope that our message on climate change got through to those who spoke to or saw us.

We enjoyed our three-course dinner extravaganza on Saturday night; the food was only upstaged by some very impressive costume creations.

Brighton Friends have experienced a sad event recently in the death of their young friend Andrea. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to spend this weekend in their meeting house, our prayers are with them.

Our sense of community has been strong and cherished. We experienced joy at being part of this living faith group and look forward to seeing each other in Croydon in February.