

Young Friends General Meeting Manchester 25th-28th May 2018 Minutes

Those Present:

Rose Almond, Matt Alton, Jennie Atherton, Jenny Baines, Jessica Beck, Faith Biddle, Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Ella Booth, Rachael Booth, Liam Brighton, Eleni Burgess, Miriam Chapman, Hannah Cook, Samuel Cooper, Tas Cooper, Vicky Cowell, Simon Crane, Alice Cunningham, Tim Daborn, Shivani Daxini, Teala Dearden, Jane Ditchfield, Michelle Dumont, Tom Eddington, Claudia Fry, Cleo Glowaski, Cait Gould, Myron Guachalla, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Tim Hall-Farthing, Miriam Harrold, Jenny Herbert, Jaz Higgs, Jessica Hubbard-Bailey, Joseph Hubbard-Bailey, Samantha Jeffrey, Ulysses Jones, Sally Kikaya, Lily Kroese, Hannah Larn, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Francesca Loise, Thea Luckcock, Naomi Major, Gabriel Martel, Jon Martin, Laura McQuillan, Yenni Millar, Kylie Noble, Jules Ireng, Davy Richardson, Tim Rouse, Chloe Scaling, Anne Seilly, Elly Settersfield, James Stark, Andrew Stimson, Ella Swinson-Reid, Vicky Daborn Tedder, Kellie Turner, Amanda Veale, Jacob Webb, Christopher Webster, Elizabeth Williams, Lucian-Marius Grigorescu, Nick Watts, Luca Bain-Lefevre, Rowan Connel, Kim Edwards, Jenny McCarthy, Eleanor Fuller, Joseph Fuller, Billie-Jo Dearden, Prithiv John, Jenny Rattenbury, Toby Freeman, Joe Holtaway

Total: 78

Co-Clerks	Michelle Dumont & Jenny McCarthy
Trustees	Michelle Dumont, Tom Eddington, Cait Gould, Jenny McCarthy, Tim Rouse, Kellie Turner
Coordinator	Gabriel Martel

2018.14 Representative's Reports

We have heard and received the following reports:

Planning Weekend Newcomer	Laura McQuillan
Northern Friend's Peace Board	A written report received from Hannah Larn, was read to the meeting and is attached to these minutes

We thank representatives for their work on behalf of YFGM.

2018.15 Finance Policy

We have heard from Cait Gould, Finance Trustee about suggested changes to the Finance Policy. We agree to the changes on the following topics as listed in the attached document from the Finance Committee:

- Online Accounts
- Debit Card
- Bursary Forms Availability
- Travel expenses
- Local Young Friend's Groups

We ask our Co-ordinator to update the Finance Policy on our website accordingly. We thank Cait and the Finance Committee for their work.

2018.16 Inclusion of Young Adult Friends and Quaker Faith & Practice Revision

We have heard from Tim Rouse about the decision to revise Quaker Faith & Practice at Yearly Meeting this year.

We feel that this process will be an important undertaking in the life of the Yearly Meeting in coming years and recognise that the process may extend for some time. We are excited at what this will bring, look forward to being involved and hope to uphold those working on this process.

We welcome that it has already been recognised that "the membership [of the Revision Committee] should reflect the breadth of the Yearly Meeting in terms of gender, age, ability, geographical location and other factors." Whilst we recognise and wish to uphold the need for continuity, we are concerned that the potential length of service and time commitment of roles on the Revision Committee may make them inaccessible to some. For example we know younger quakers, those with families, work commitments or health issues may not be able to commit to extended service.

We are at different points in our journeys and may be well placed to contribute in different ways at different times. We feel people may need to be able to be released from roles and new voices brought to the Committee with appropriate handover. We feel the spirit leads us to ask Meeting for Sufferings to find creative and accessible ways to engage with Friends and hope that thought will be given as to how to maintain the energy of the Committee. The Committee must be aware of the mechanisms of support

available to them. We are happy to work with Meeting for Sufferings around these points.

We hope Young Friends will be included as equally respected contributors to the process and that there will be regular opportunities for engagement with Young Friends General Meeting, Junior Yearly Meeting, Local Young Adult Friends groups, Children's Groups and others.

We know of previous examples, such as the process around the Junior book of Faith and Practice - "Living our beliefs" which have been felt to be effective.

We hope that if the process continues for some years, space will be made for the voices of children who are becoming teenagers and adults as well as newcomers to the Society.

We ask our Clerks to send this minute to Meeting for Sufferings.

2018.17 [Accounts](#)

Our Finance Trustee has presented the accounts. It was noted that the cash funds at year end do not match the funds available in the bank account. This is being investigated before the accounts can be approved. We thank the Finance Committee for their work so far.

[See 2018.21 below]

2018.18 [Trans and non-binary inclusion](#)

We have begun to discuss how to formulate a statement on trans and non-binary inclusion and how to affirm trans and non-binary rights in our community. We recognise the need for further discernment on this issue and will return to the topic as soon as possible.

[See 2018.20 below]

2018.19 [Nominations to Nominations Committee](#)

We have considered nominations to the nominations Committee and resolved as follows:

Released	Appointed	Until
Johanna Longmore	Eleni Burgess	May 2021
Thomas Wright	Tim Hall-Farthing	May 2021
Peter Tyler	Jane Ditchfield	May 2021

We thank the members of the Nominations Committee who are being released for their service.

2018.20 [Trans and non-binary inclusion \(2\)](#)

We affirm the right of everyone to self-identify their gender and recognise all genders as valid and real.

YFGM aims to be a welcoming and accessible space for people of all gender identities where people feel included and oppressive behaviour is not accepted.

We recognise we have further work to do including some more immediate changes, and creating space to nurture deeper cultural changes within both YFGM and the wider Society of Friends.

As a next step we agree to hold a Special Interest Gathering, open to everyone, to further our discernment around this topic, after which we will consider the next steps of our community's journey.

2018.21 [Accounts \(2\)](#)

We note that the previous discrepancy was due to a spreadsheet error.

We thank the Finance Committee for their hard work in putting together and presenting YFGM's accounts for 2017. We approve these accounts as amended and approved by Trustees, subject to examination and attach the amended accounts to these minutes.

2018.22 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Mental Wellbeing Concern Group	Kim Edwards	n/a carried over	n/a
Northern Friend's Peace Board rep	Ruby Sadler-Andrews	n/a carried over	n/a
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Jules Irengue	Jane Ditchfield	Oct 2018
	Laura McQuillan	Sally Kikaya	Oct 2018
	Grace Roberts	Joseph Hubbard-Bailey	Oct 2018
Co-clerk	Jenny McCarthy	Samuel Cooper	May 2021
	Michelle Dumont	Rici Marshall Cross	May 2021
Fundraiser	n/a handover period	Shivani Daxini	Oct 2021
Overseer	Naomi Haigh	Laura McQuillan	May 2020
Quinty	Mark Borthwick	Miriam Chapman	Feb 2021

We have also carried over the following roles for which we have been seeking nominations: Convenor of Trustees, Quaker Peace & Social Witness Rep, and Events Co-ordinator.

We thank Nominations Committee for their work in bringing names forward. We thank Friends who have been released for their service.

2018.23 Change of signatories to the bank account

Further to the nominations minute we appoint:

- Lucas Bain Lefebvre, General Fund Treasurer,
- Samuel Cooper, Co-clerk
- Rici Marshall Cross, Co-clerk

as signatories to all YFGMs accounts with the Co-op bank. We release Michelle Dumont, Jenny McCarthy and Tas Cooper.

2018.24 Co-options to committees

Eleni Burgess was co-opted to Nominations Committee. Miriam Chapman was co-opted to Quintessential. We thank Eleni and Miriam for their service this weekend.

2018.25 Catering

We thank Chloe Scaling, Jess Beck and Sasha-Lawson Frost for catering this weekend.

We also thank Hannah Larn for stepping in to help with catering in Brighton in February.

2018.26 Speakers

Alastair McIntosh led a session about Spiritual Activism and Matt Alton has facilitated a session on Young Adult Quaker's vision for the future of British Quakerism.

2018.27 Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
Digital wake up yoga	organised by Sasha Lawson-Frost
Revision of Quaker Faith & Practice - keep, cut and create	Laurence Hall
What does it mean to rest?	Joe Holtaway
Fundraising workshop	Nick Watts
Craftivism	Chloe Scaling, Elly Setterfield and Vicky Daborn Tedder
People's History Museum	Vicky Daborn Tedder
Clay animal making	Cait Gould

We thank Friends who have led sessions for their contribution.

2018.11 Clerk's Offering

We gathered in Manchester for a May bank holiday of sun, SIGs and deep spirituality. We got to know each other through games and compliments and Quinty led us in an exploration of our ideas about and relationship with 'God'.

Alastair McIntosh shared his experiences of spiritual activism and we took part in Special Interest Groups including craftivism, revising Quaker Faith & Practice, rest and fundraising.

We challenged ourselves in discernment and discussion around our vision for the future of British Quakerism and YFGM, recognising that we need to care for ourselves and our role holders as YFGM and wider society is changing, and reflecting on how to live Quakerism in 21st century Britain.

We have affirmed people's right to self-identify their gender and look forward to a Special Interest Gathering which will deepen our understanding of gender diversity and our leadings.

We bonded with our Small Groups over washing up, tea and a treasure hunt, and enjoyed a Ceilidh, and a Cabaret evening.

We look forward to the summer and will gather again in October.

Attachments

- Northern Friend's Peace Board Report
- Changes to Finance Policy
- Accounts (as approved by Trustees)

May 2018 Report from YFGM representative to NFPB

At the YFGM meeting in February 2018 at Brighton Meeting House I was selected as the YFGM representative to the Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB).

In this time NFPB should have met once, on March 3rd in Carlisle. However, due to severe weather they had to cancel. Two separate meetings were rearranged, in the hope that everyone would be able to attend at least one of them – Huddersfield on April 14th and Lancaster on May 12th. Unfortunately I was unable to attend either of these because of having to work (despite them both being on Saturdays when I don't usually work). I was very sorry to miss both.

Philip Austin from NFPB is very keen to engage YFGM in the work of NFPB, and to find out what young Quakers are already doing in working towards peace. We recently had a phone call where Philip explained he would like to run a workshop with young Quakers some point soon. I can follow this up on my return to the UK, or this can be taken up by another YFGM representative to NFPB if they are nominated in this period.

I would like to draw young Friends attention to the event below on 16th June at Manchester Meeting House on *Changing the Narrative for Peace; Engaging with the Media*. The description of the event is as follows:

“Our conviction is that peace is not built through military might. But how and where can we put alternative approaches into the mix? This workshop for Quakers will explore the challenge and opportunities for communicating our understanding of peace. It will be a day for reflection and interaction.”

In order to register, participants must contact Philip Austin on nfpb@gn.apc.org or 01204 382330.

Future events

- 11th - 15th June – Stop Fuelling War – Quakers and others witnessing at the Eurosatory arms fair in Paris – <https://stopfuellingwar.org/en/actions>
- 15th June – Rethinking Security conference in London - <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/portfolio/national-conference-2018/>
- 16th June – Changing the Narrative for Peace:- Engaging with the Media – Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. 10am-4pm. Buffet lunch provided. Email nfpb@gn.apc.org for more details.
- 23rd June – NFPB members' meeting in Glasgow, followed on the 24th by some of us joining the Meeting for Worship at Faslane (contact NFPB for further information)
- 23rd June What chance for a nuclear-free World? — Paul Rogers contributes to this series of Hexham Debates – more info at <https://hexhamdebates.wordpress.com/>
- 22nd September - NAE NUKES ANYWHERE! March and Peace Rally at Faslane - <http://www.nuclearban.scot/sep-rally/>
- 19th - 21st November – The Peace and Hope to End War – weekend at Charney Manor, Oxfordshire, facilitated by NFPB Coordinator Philip Austin- <http://www.charneymanor.com/events>

Stay engaged

All can stay engaged with the work of NFPB on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/NFPB1>
and Twitter here: <https://twitter.com/nfpb1>

Changes to Finance Policy

YFGM's Finance Policy sets out what you can do with our money and how we do it. Some parts of it are a few years behind our current practice; other parts would benefit from being made clearer.

The changes presented here show the old text and the amendments we're proposing to update and clarify.

Finance Policy vs. Constitution		
Certain points seem more appropriate to be included in the Constitution as opposed to the Finance Policy.		
	Old text	Proposed new text
Trustees 1c)	In addition to those specified in the Constitution, the following Trustees shall be appointed by General Meeting: Overseers Trustee, Quintessential Trustee, Convener of Trustees and Management Trustee.	Move to constitution
Trustees 1d)	Trustees, when appointed, shall sign a declaration stating that they are eligible and willing to act as Trustees of General Meeting.	Move to constitution
Financial Oversight		
With growing use of online banking it is becoming more important that there are sufficient people in place to oversee and check our financial decisions. We propose that the Finance Trustee be added as a signatory to facilitate double-checking our payment and receipts processes. This would require constitutional change.		
Account Signatories 1. i)	...Accounts shall have three signatories, the General Fund Treasurer and the Co-Clerks.	...Accounts should have four signatories: the General Fund Treasurer; Finance Trustee ; and two Co-Clerks."
Online Accounts		
Updating to match practice.		
1. i)	...For the General Fund Reserves Account two signatures will be required for any withdrawal. For all other accounts two signatures shall be required for withdrawals from the accounts for amounts in excess of £700. <i>Any online payment accounts should contain no more than £500.</i>	...For the General Fund Reserves Account two signatures will be required for any withdrawal. For all other accounts two signatures shall be required for withdrawals from the accounts for amounts in excess of £700.

Debit Card

The below minute was written in 2012. Our finance policy should reflect that.

Minute 2012.23 General Fund Debit Card We ask finance committee to set up a new co-op bank account with a debit card. We ask that they keep £500 in this account ready for making bookings using the debit card, for example to pay for food, travel or accommodation. We feel this would be more inclusive for those individuals who are not able to pay up front, and will make paying expenses quicker. Money in the account should only exceed £500 where there is reasonable expectation that imminent expenses will exceed this amount. We ask finance committee to amend finance policy and will attach a copy of that amended policy to these minutes.

	Old text	Proposed new text
New 1. n) (or l)	N/A	<i>For those individuals who are not able to pay expenses in advance of reimbursement, a debit card account containing up to £500 will be available. Money in the account should only exceed £500 where there is reasonable expectation that imminent expenses will exceed this amount. Accessibility and bursary claims forms should be completed by individuals who require advance payment. Claims will be approved or refused, and payments made by the General Fund Treasurer and Finance Trustee according to the Bursary Policy.</i>
Bursary Forms Availability		
To update practice we propose this addition.		
3. a)	...Bursary forms are available from the YFGM office, or at YFGM	...Bursary forms are available from the YFGM office, website , or at YFGM.

Travel expenses

For clarification and to update practice and decisions made in YFGM we propose removing mention of management group (which no longer exists), and include the Three Young Quaker Editors and Outreach committee as the outreach grant has helped to provide this money, and they need to meet in order to carry out their role successfully.

	Old text	Proposed new text
4. a)	The people whose travel will be paid from the General Fund to attend Planning Weekends will be: Trustees; Quintessential; Overseers; Finance Committee; Convenor of Nominations Committee; Special Interest Group Coordinator; Newcomers as appointed by General Meeting and caterers as necessary. Other people will have their travel expenses paid if they are required to attend a Planning Weekend by their job description or if invited by a Trustee – this may be from the General Fund or from a Committee budget as appropriate. <i>Travel expenses for Management Group and Support Group will always be paid from the Employment Fund.</i>	The people whose travel will be paid from the General Fund to attend Planning Weekends will be: Trustees; Quintessential; Overseers; Finance Committee; Convenor of Nominations Committee; Special Interest Group Coordinator; Newcomers as appointed by General Meeting; Three Young Quaker editors; Outreach committee and caterers as necessary. Other people will have their travel expenses paid if they are required to attend a Planning Weekend by their job description or if invited by a Trustee – this may be from the General Fund or from a Committee budget as appropriate.

YFGM Free Financial Oversight

We are proposing that to streamline the process, and to give the Events Coordinator a clearer objective we combine these two.

7 e)	When a Special Interest Gathering is agreed by either the Events Coordinator or General Meeting <i>they shall appoint an Events Financial Oversight Person to oversee the financial affairs of each Special Interest Gathering.</i>	“When a YFGM Free is agreed by either the Events Coordinator or General Meeting the Events Co-ordinator will oversee the financial affairs of each YFGM Free .
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General Meeting Associated Groups

These aren't things that have existed for some time. Is this still necessary to be included?

8.	a) An Associated Group is a group autonomous of General Meeting, which has been recognised as an Associated Group of General Meeting by a minute of General Meeting and is operating within the charitable objectives of General Meeting. b) Expenses of an Associated Group shall not be met by General Meeting, unless specifically	Removed
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	<p>minuted by General Meeting. c) If an Associated Group has its own funds, it shall appoint a Treasurer. Its accounts shall be independently examined. An Associated Group benefits from our charitable status, therefore the examiner shall be appointed by General Meeting and the examined accounts shall be presented to a Business Meeting. d) An Associated Group may dispose of its funds without consulting of General Meeting as long as they are used for the charitable purpose for which the group was set up, otherwise the funds should be given to General Meeting which shall decide how they are disbursed giving consideration to the legal restraints in operation and the purpose for which they were raised.</p>	
<p>Local Young Friends Groups To add clarification that is already implicit within our charitable status.</p>		
<p>9. b)</p>	<p>Local Young Friends' Groups within Britain may apply for a grant from General Meeting. Written requests should be made to the Treasurer (Finance Trustee), who shall consult with other Trustees before making a decision. If appropriate, the request may be brought to a business meeting.</p>	<p>Local Young Friends' Groups within Britain may apply for a grant from General Meeting <i>within our charitable objectives.</i> Written requests should be made to the Treasurer (Finance Trustee), who shall consult with other Trustees before making a decision. If appropriate, the request may be brought to a business meeting.</p>