

Young Friends General Meeting

York Friargate Meeting house

26th - 28th October 2018

Minutes

Those Present:

Matt Alton, Frankie Austin, Hiram Bakhani, Elizabeth Backhouse, Jenny Baines, Lucas Bain-Lefevre, Rowena B, Lucy Bashforth, Faith Biddle, Alexandra Boliver-Brown, Racheal Booth, Ella Booth, Jane Booth, Liam Brighton, Amy Bromilow, Eleni Burgess, Elie Cardero, Ryan Carter, Miriam Chapman, Adian Childs, Roseanna Clarke, Tas Cooper, Samuel Cooper, Gwendolen Da Sousa Correa, James Davies, Hannah Davies, Billie-Jo Deardan, Tela Dearden, Jane Ditchfield, Peter Doubtfire, Michelle Dumont, Tom Eddington, Kim Edwards, William Essex, Naomi Fairwether, Isobel Fisher-Pearson, Rowan Franck, Toby Freeman, Eleanor Fuller, Joseph Fuller, Cait Gould, Naomi Haigh, Laurence Hall, Tim Hall-Farthing, Thomas Hancock, Elizabeth Hargraves, Miriam Harrold, Jaz Higgs, Ceridwen Jenkins, Isabelle Jones, Ulysses Jones, Sally Kikaya, Lily Kroese, Sasha Lawson-frost, Mary Lea, Rici Marshall Cross, Eliza Martin, Laura McQuillan, Magano Mutepua, Romy Neale Guash, Anne Norton, Sara Pretice, Bianca Rawlinson, Edgar Roberts, Grace Roberts, Tim Rouse, Chloe Scaling, Anne Seilly, Tim Shorrocks, Frances Sleaf, Hannah Stranex, Ella Swinson-Reid, Ben Tattersall, Amanda Veale, Matthew Ward-Perkins, Jacob Webb, Zoe Wide.

Total: 78

Co-Clerks	Sam Cooper & Rici Marshall Cross
Trustees	Sam Cooper, Tom Eddington, Cait Gould, Rici Marshall Cross, Tim Rouse
Coordinator	Faith Biddle

2018.28 Safeguarding Policy

We have heard from Tom Eddington, our Safeguarding Lead, about adoption of an official Safeguarding Policy to replace the draft policy currently in use.

We are reminded that although these words provide the legal basis of how safeguarding issues are dealt with in our community, our understanding of what our community should be extends beyond what is legally expected of us as a charity. We recognise that our safeguarding practices must reflect this understanding, and we will work to develop a shared understanding of how we are to treat each other in YFGM's community, and the appropriate way for this understanding is to be officially adopted by YFGM.

YFGM approves the Safeguarding Policy.

YFGM accepts the consequential amendment to our Data Protection and Privacy policy, adding the words 'and safeguarding' to section 2.7.b.

We ask our Co-ordinator to update the Safeguarding Policy on our website accordingly. We thank Tom, Tim and the other Trustees for their work. We thank Jane Booth for recording an audio version of the policy.

2018.29 Mental Wellbeing Concern

We have heard from the Mental Wellbeing Working Group about the recent activities of the working group, and about the working group's sense of uncertainty about how to take our concern forward with the resources, time and energy available to them.

YFGM's Mental Wellbeing concern was originally adopted in 2014; the working group was set up at the same time, and asked to focus on the mental wellbeing of members of YFGM itself. No review period was set for the concern, or for the chosen way of taking it forward.

We feel it would be appropriate to begin a review to discern whether YFGM still wishes to regard this as a Concern, and whether the working group as it currently exists and with its current focus is the best way to take this concern forward.

Whether or not this is taken forward as a concern, or taken forward in its current form, caring for one another's mental wellbeing is a core part of what we want to be as a community; it is less clear that our current way of taking it forward best reflects the role which we want this aspiration to have in our corporate life.

We ask the clerks to communicate with the working group, elders and overseers, and gather the information which the meeting would need to review this concern, and decide whether and how best to take it forward, in February's General Meeting.

2018.30 Budget

Finance Committee has presented the 2019 Budget. We thank them for their work in preparing the budget and for fundraising on our behalf over the year.

We ask Finance Committee to allocate a further £800 to training, in particular to support training in mental health first aid or any other welfare or mental wellbeing related supporting roles. We encourage a greater use of the training fund in all roles.

We will amend the 2018 section of the Budget to record £500 allocated to events to support the Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion SIG which is to take place in November. We will amend our record of income in 2018 to record £500 received from the Sir James Reckitt Charitable Trust. We will amend the figure budgeted for Outreach to reflect the need to spend restricted funds, intended for a new website, before the end of 2018.

YFGM will again send a grant of £500 to help support the European and Middle Eastern Young Friends.

Reserves will be unusually high in the coming year, but Finance Committee believes that this appropriately reflects possible variations on our income and expenditure.

YFGM approves the budget for 2019.

2018.31 Reports

We have heard and received the following reports:

Newcomers	Sally Kikaya
YQ New Economy Now Event	sent by Steven Clements
BYM Sustainability Gathering	Edgar Roberts

The YQ New Economy Now Event minute will be attached as an appendix to these minutes.

We thank Friends and representatives for their work on behalf of YFGM.

2018.32 Consideration of writing a memorial minute for Becky Garnault

We were saddened in August to hear of the death of our Friend Becky Garnault after some months in hospital. She was a valued member of the YFGM community.

We agree to write a memorial minute for Becky which we hope will contribute to the preparation of testimony to the grace of god as shown in her life.

We welcome Friends to consider if they are able to contribute and hope to name a self selected group to carry this forward at the end of this weekend, to which others may join, especially those not present this weekend. We ask the community to uphold those working on this

2018.33 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Overseer	Faith Biddle	Grace Roberts	October 2020

SIG co-ordinator	Lawrence Hall	Jacob Webb	October 2020
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Sally Kikaya	Edgar Roberts	February 2019
	Jane Ditchfield	Ceridwen Jenkins	February 2019
	Joseph Hubbard-Bailey	Alice Hargreaves	February 2019
Outreach	Eleanor Hargreaves	Lily Kroese	October 2021
Quintessential	Davi Cardero	Jane Booth	October 2021
Quintessential Trustee	<i>carried over</i>	Jane Booth	October 2021
Convenor of Trustees	Kellie Turner	Alexandra Bolivia Brown	October 2021
Fundraiser	Nick Watts	<i>replacement appointed May 2018</i>	

Nominations has reminded us that it is important for the community to supports all role holders, and Trustees in particular, whose work often goes on behind the scenes. We recognise that as a Meeting we do not simply give responsibility to those Friends, but take responsibility for their wellbeing in carrying out those roles.

We have received a Minute from nominations committee which we attach at the end of this minute. We thank Nominations Committee for their work in bringing names forward, and particularly recognise their work to bring us these names despite being relatively new to their roles. We thank Friends who have been released for their service.

2018.34 Co-options to committees

Overseers have co-opted Grace Roberts for this YFGM. We thank Grace for her service.

2018.35 Change of committee name

Our Quinty committee has for this weekend used the name Elders. They have felt that the name Quinty is opaque and that as Eldership is the role they are serving to the community plain speaking dictates they be called Elders. We have not as a community considered if we are in unity with this name change and will consider this at a future weekend, but will continue to use both names of Elders and Quinty on a trial period.

2018.36 Catering

We thank Lucy Baston, Ben Tatersall, and Alexandra Bolivia Brown for catering this weekend.

2018.37 Speakers

Gill Reid and David Beale of Central Nominations Committee led a session on the book of discipline revision and how YFGM members can get involved.

2018.38 Special Interest Groups

The following Special Interest Groups were held this weekend:

Special Interest Group	Led by
Website	Tim Rouse
Capoeira	Nick Davis
Singing	Naomi Haigh
Trans & non-binary inclusion special interest weekend planning	Sally Kikaya, Amanda Veale
Living Witness (discussing the Young Adults Pathways in Sustainability programme)	Laura McQuillan, Rowena Bashforth

We thank Friends who have led sessions for their contribution.

2018.39 Trustees Report

The trustees gave us a report on their activities since the last YFGM weekend. We heard of the changes to the membership of Trustees with two new Clerks being appointed in May. We heard that the annual Trustees weekend was held at Woodbrooke as part of the young Friend consultation and this may be an arrangement that can continue in the future. The main activities of Trustees have been:

- finalising the safeguarding policy, taking advice from Bateswells Braithwaite solicitors and from Friends House, which has been approved earlier in the weekend
- planning for the website to be redeveloped,
- recruitment of our YFGM Co-ordinator
- Searching for a venue at which we can hold a YFGM with beds – we have found a potential venue for our next February gathering but this is not yet confirmed
- Writing our annual report for 2017 for submission to the charity commission

We have heard that Trustees have felt stretched in this time, without a full complement of active members. We thank them for their continuing work behind the scenes,

2018.40 Contribution to the host meeting house

We are grateful to the welcome we have received from Friargate York meeting house and agree to make a donation to the meeting house.

Clerk's Offering

We gathered in York at Friargate Meeting House. As usual, the shared Meeting for Worship with local friends on Sunday morning was a highlight, and in Ministry we celebrated the gifts that Friends of all ages bring to the Society.

We made an effort this weekend to shine a light on what it meant for our meeting to be a spiritual community, with spirituality sessions starting only hours after arrivals. We shared reflections with each other on advices and queries, and we were encouraged to think about how we could incorporate some of what we most value about YFGM into our daily lives: we wrote reminders to ourselves about them on postcards, and we look forward to seeing them in the post in a few weeks.

As two new clerks, we looked forward with trepidation to our first experience of meeting for worship for business from the clerk's table. Though some of the business was at first glance procedural and mundane, out of it we found ways of strengthening our witness of community with each another. In approving our new safeguarding policy, we were brought to ask how we hoped to treat each other in our community; in beginning the process of reviewing our Mental Wellbeing concern, we spoke of how we hoped to care for one another; in approving our budget, we set aside money for training, with a view to helping our role-holders care for our community; and in nominations returns, ministry spoke of the need for the community to take responsibility for supporting and upholding those who take on responsibilities on our behalf.

We also undertook to write a memorial minute for our Friend Becky Garnault, and in Saturday night's epilogue we remembered her to one another, sharing stories of her heart. We miss her presence in our community, and she lives on in the grace given to us through her life, embodied in the stories we tell about her and the effect of the strength and brightness of her character on those who knew her.

Following our minute in May's YFGM, we invited the clerks of Central Nominations Committee to talk to us about how we could be more involved and included in the coming revision to the book of discipline. We've had special interest groups on the development of a new program to nurture our sustainability witness, planning our upcoming special interest gathering, our website, singing, and capoeira.

And in between all this, we've lived our community in conversation and friendship, eating, cleaning, and cooking together, exploring the city, playing many silly games, and worshipping together. We leave each hoping to bring something back from YFGM into our daily lives.

Attachments

- Reports
- Minute from YQEN
- Budget
- Safeguarding policy
- Minute from Nominations Committee

Minute from Nominations Committee

We note that three experienced overseers are due to be released in May 2019.

We as nominations feel that it is important that the community supports the Trustees.

Nominations suggests that this is considered as part of the review of the Mental Wellbeing Concern in February 2019

Minute from Young Quaker New Economy Now! Event (30 June 2018 held at Friends House, London)

We came together for the New Economy Now event, as young Quakers and other f/Friends. We asked questions like what is the economy for, who is the economy for, what does the economy mean to us, and how can we build a new economy? We welcomed Andy Haldane of the Bank of England, Suzanne Ismail of QPSW and Joe Earle of Economy. We questioned the ‘moral compass’ of the economy, whether our current system is inevitable, and how we hold better, more democratic conversations about the economy.

In our second session, we heard from Hazel Sheffield of the Far Nearer project and David Clarke of Positive Money. Looking at patterns of the new economy, we heard about local communities building alternative systems and ideas about what changes at national level could help bring about a fairer, more sustainable economy.

Workshops explored:

- the food economy and food sovereignty
- new economic thinking about alternative ecological and feminist visions to the dominant economic model
- democratic work, and its potentials and challenges

- energy democracy that is participatory, accessible and sustainable for all
- democratic housing, and the aim of living in right relationship with the world and each other
- how money is created when banks make loans and buy assets, through

At the end of the day, we came together again to reflect on the systemic changes we each want to see, and the changes we want to make in our own lives. We shared ideas for taking action – from joining existing organisations and movements and increasing our knowledge, to shopping locally, working with local allotment societies and getting vocal about housing cooperatives.

We came together with a common desire for a new economic system, which is fairer, more sustainable and resilient. This system must also be more focused on wellbeing and the common good. We feel that this change needs to come urgently and this conversation needs to continue, with the involvement of more Quakers and more widely, in society.