

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



Young Friends General Meeting

Nottingham Friends Meeting House

17-19 October 2014

Minutes

Those Present:

Holly Alcock, Halimah Austin, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Jessica Beck, Andrew Bibb, Rhian Blades, Ella Booth, Liam Brighton, Hannah Brock, Elliot Burcham, Stephen Clement, Clare Conboy, Tas Cooper, Carla Denyer, Paul Dodwell, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Ellen Elliott, Toby Freeman, Joseph Fuller, Rajit Gholap, Ian Goggin, Samuel Goldsmith, Cáit Gould, Thomas Hancock, Eleanor Hargreaves, Owen Jennings, Edward Owen Jones, Sarah Lever, Iwona Luszowicz, Hannah Marsh, Rici Marshall, Rebecca Mattingly, Jenny McCarthy, Hereward Mills, Magano Mutepua, Rhiannon Rees, Andrew Rendle, Angharad Rhys, Becky Riddell, Anthony Ridge-Newman, Tim Rouse, Abigail Rowse, Dorina Shahaj, Beatrice Shelley, Kristin Skarsholt, Chris Stapenhurst, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon, Christopher Tedd, Nick Watts, Julian Wood, Alice Woodhead

Total: 54

Co-Clerks: Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire

Trustees Present: Peter Doubtfire, Jenny McCarthy, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, Rachael Swancott Boon

Coordinator: Tim Rouse

2014.17 Budget

Alyn Still has presented a draft budget for 2015, attached to these minutes.

Anticipating greater take-up of the Young Adult Leadership Programme in 2015, we ask for an additional £1000 to be allocated for Young Adult Leadership bursaries. We ask for £300 to be allocated for representatives' expenses and ask finance committee to consider guidance for representatives claiming expenses.

With those amendments we approve the budget for 2015 and thank finance committee for their work in preparing it.

2014.18 Concern Arising: Mental Wellbeing

We have heard from Becky Riddell about a concern for mental wellbeing arising. This concern has been steadily growing within YFGM's community for some time, reflected in special interest groups, speakers, YF(GM Free)s and above all the energy and enthusiasm of YFGM members.

As young Friends we can lead by example, and feel the time is right to stand up and say to the world – 'this is important.' We recognise that YFGM can nourish the mental wellbeing of

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all its members and feel a duty to further this within YFGM and in the outside world. Our spirit of loving, non-judgmental support offers something unique. We are excited at the prospect of the impact we could make in raising mental wellbeing in the social and political agenda.

We agree to adopt mental wellbeing as a concern. We recognise that where we take this concern will require careful discernment, being aware that the actions we take affect our own mental wellbeing. We ask nominations committee to nominate a working group at YFGM in February 2015, to consider this and bring ideas to future YFGMs. We envisage that the terms of reference of this group will be finalised as the structure of their activities becomes more defined.

We thank Becky Riddell and all those who have helped to bring this concern for their hard work so far.

2014.19 Concern Arising: UK Nuclear Weapons

Hannah Brock brought the concern of nuclear disarmament, significantly highlighting the opportunity we have leading up to the 2015 general election, of influencing decisions about the renewal of Trident.

We are acutely aware that as members of YFGM we represent the future of Quakers in Britain. With this in mind we have a responsibility to own and future generations to take the opportunity to try as hard as we can to create the world in which we want to live. We have a chance to have a tangible impact on our futures and to live our faith.

We adopt this concern as YFGM and ask Hannah Brock to convene a working group to consider ideas and actions. Due to the time constraints on this issue we recognise that this group will be self-selecting from this meeting and will be minuted at February YFGM.

We thank Hannah Brock and other friends for their work so far.

2014.20 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Overseer	Carried forward	Edward Owen Jones	October 2016
The Young Quaker Editor	Tim Rouse	Beatrice Shelley	October 2017
Interchurch / Interfaith Secretary	Andrew Williams	Stephen Clement Hannah Brock	October 2017
General Fund Treasurer	None (handover)	Tas Cooper	February 2018
YFGM Representative to Meeting for Sufferings	Rebecca Riddell	Iwona Luszowicz	October 2017
Nominations Committee	Tim Rouse	Catherine Gregory	October 2017

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Planning Weekend Newcomers (3)	Andrew Blampied Iwona Luszowicz Joseph Fuller	Stephen Clement Eleanor Hargreaves Rhiannon Rees	February 2015
YFGM@Woodbrooke Planning Weekend	Nicola Sleape Andrew Rendle Peter Doubtfire	None (laid down)	
YFGM Representative to Minute 36 Group	Rici Marshall	None (laid down)	
YFGM Representative to YMG Planning Group	Becca Mattingly	None (laid down)	

2014.21 Change of Signatories

Further to the nominations minute we appoint:

- Edward Ullathorne (Outgoing General Fund Treasurer)
- Tas Cooper (Incoming General Fund Treasurer)
- Brigid Stoney (Co-Clerk)
- Peter Doubtfire (Co-Clerk)

as signatories to the general fund current account, general fund deposit account and the general fund petty cash account.

2014.22 Reports

We have heard from Becky Riddell about Meeting for Sufferings and Iwona Luszowicz and Joseph Fuller about their experience as Planning Weekend Newcomers. We thank these friends for their reports.

2014.23 Visiting Friends

We have welcomed an international friend, Claire Conboy from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

2014.24 Co-options

We thank Hannah Brock and Jenny McCarthy for their work this weekend as co-optees on Quintessential Committee.

2014.25 Catering

We thank Rebecca Mattingly and Hereward Mills for catering this weekend.

2014.26 Clerk's Offering

We have gathered this weekend at Nottingham Meeting House for October YFGM. Our time together has led us to contemplate our role in the future of Quakers in Britain and to consider how we engage with each other, the Quaker community and the wider world.

We have explored what concerns are and found that the process of testing and bringing concerns is far from neat and linear. In following a rambling path of reflecting, testing and discerning we can distinguish the issues that we are truly being compelled to act upon.

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We have heard about and felt a concern for mental wellbeing growing within our community. This weekend has nourished our wellbeing with a spirit of loving care that is safe, honest and non-judgemental. We have felt a call to further this spirit within our meeting and to champion it in the outside world. There has been an extraordinary sense of energy and passion for mental wellbeing, and adopting it as a concern brings many exciting possibilities. Having heard the call to act, we look forward to the journey we have agreed to embark upon together.

We have spent time considering the maintenance of nuclear weapons, and the opportunity we have to make an impact on our future. Rachel Staley from BASIC spoke to us about her work campaigning for nuclear disarmament. Her session provided information about nuclear weapons in the UK as well as leading us to question how we would effect change. We also heard from Andrew Dey from Action AWE who led a special interest group. These sessions culminated in YFGM adopting campaigning against the renewal of Trident as a concern.

Roger Seal from the Long Term Framework Working Group led a session considering YFGM's contribution to the aims and goals of Quakers in Britain between 2016 and 2020. We considered who we are as Quakers and what we believe in both individually and as a wider group. We asked each other how we are living those beliefs both internally and externally.

Our special interest groups involved thinking about how we can actively live our faith. Stephen Clement led a session about holding people in power to account, and Becky Riddell encouraged us to engage with Quakers in Britain through Meeting for Sufferings.

In a spirituality session, Quintessential helped us to explore our leadings. From being more discerning in the causes we financially support, to offering love and kindness in a moment of vulnerability, what are we being called to do in our everyday lives? What support networks and spiritual practices help us to heed that calling? Reflecting on these questions, some of us found we have been acting on leadings without realising it.

Closing each day with an epilogue, we have come together to reflect on a more natural approach to paths and boundaries, and to respond to questions that search deeper than a generic 'how was your day?' What has made you smile, laugh, cry, your spirit sing this weekend? When have you felt loved, lonely, challenged, appreciated? The mix of all these memories and emotions make YFGM the community that it is. Like the bear making tracks in the forest, the gradual accumulation of our experiences can produce something more lasting than carefully planned structures.

We have also found time to relax and enjoy each other's company, through walks to the local arboretum, the Saturday evening quiz, or copious amounts of tea and cake. We hope that YFGM is a community which supports its members whatever they are going through. We offer thanks to those friends who have overcome difficulties to be with us this weekend and our thoughts are with those unable to attend.

We leave this YFGM with a clearer sense of our own goals as a community and look forward to meeting again in February.

Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire, Co-clerks

Appendix: Draft budget

<u>YFGM BUDGET</u>	2015 Draft budget (£)			2014 Figures (£)		
	Allocation of Funds	Anticipated use	Forecast	Allocation of Funds	Forecast	Expected for year
Income						
BYM Grant	8,030.00	100%	8,030.00	1,000.00		8,030.00
JRCT Grant	26,605.00	100%	26,605.00	-		26,593.00
Legacies		100%	-			
YFGM Contributions	4,000.00	100%	4,000.00	4,000.00		
Meetings & Friends	8,000.00	100%	8,000.00	8,000.00		
Interest	40.00	100%	40.00	40.00		
Events	500.00	100%	500.00	500.00		
Appeal	-	100%	-	500.00		
Woodbrooke Income	-	100%	-	14,000.00		
Total Income	47,175.00	100%	47,175.00	28,040.00	28,040.00	53,132.33
Expenditure						
Running costs						
YFGMs	9,450.00	100%	9,450.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
May YFGM		100%	-	22,500.00	22,500.00	30,648.00
Planning Weekends	4,725.00	100%	4,725.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Office costs	20,000.00	100%	20,000.00	19,800.00	19,800.00	20,000.00
Additional						
Accessibility	1,500.00	80%	1,200.00	1,500.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Bursarys	3,500.00	80%	2,800.00	3,500.00	2,800.00	2,800.00
Representitives	-	100%	-	-	-	-
Training	2,000.00	70%	1,400.00	2,000.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
Young Adult Leaders	3,000.00	100%	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Emeyf grant			-	-	-	-
Contingency / other	1,000.00	0%	-	1,000.00	-	-
Outreach						
General	1,200.00	50%	600.00	1,200.00	600.00	600.00
Enquirers	1,200.00	80%	960.00	1,200.00	960.00	960.00
International	200.00	10%	20.00	200.00	20.00	
Interchurch/interfaith	200.00	10%	20.00	200.00	20.00	
Website / Young Quaker	1,000.00	90%	900.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Events	500.00	100%	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Appeal	-	100%	-	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Expenditure	49,475.00		45,575.00	67,800.00	64,000.00	61,808.00
Surplus / (deficit)	(2,300.00)		1,600.00	(39,760.00)	(35,960.00)	(8,675.67)
Estimated reserves brought forward:			33,167.04			41,482.71
Estimated reserves carried forward:			34,767.04			33,167.04