

Young Friends General Meeting

28 - 30 October 2022

York

Minutes

Those Present (59):

Alexandra Foley, Al Boliver-Brown, Ambrose Joharchi, Anne Seilly Anya Nanning Ramamurthy, Arjun Nanning Ramamurthy, Artemis, Becky Cutts, Becky Shirley, Bird Taylor, Bryony Insua-Summerhays, Ceridwen Jenkins, Chloe Scaling, Claire Goode, Ed Rugg, Eleanor Beswick, Ellie Harding, Eliza Martin, Elliot Mears, Freddie Brasher, Georgia Campbell, Gray Wood, Gwenllian Shippides, Hannah Stranex, Izzy Hepburn, Jacob Webb, Jaz Higgs, Jennie Atherton, Jenny Herbert, Jenny Baines, Jess Beck, Jessie Fenn, Jimin Kang, Jules Ireng, Kaden Foley, Lauren Foster, Laurence Hall, Liam Brighton, Lucy Dodgson, Lucy Adams, Matt Rosen, Min Green, Peyton Lee, Rachael Booth, Rachel Melly, Rincent Molton, Robert Rayner, Romy Neale Guasch, Rosie Gilbert, Sam Cooper, Sammy Gilbert, Sasha Lawson-Frost, Spencer Frederick, Tamara Ulliyart, Tas Cooper, Tim Rouse, Tim Hall Farthing, Violet Grothey, Will Reed

Co-Clerks:	Tim Rouse, Hannah Stranex
Trustees	Tim Hall Farthing, Jenny Herbert, Leilani Rabemananjara, Tim Rouse, Hannah Stranex, Gray Wood, Sasha Lawson-Frost
Area & Local Meeting Representatives	Al Boliver-Brown - East Kent AM Anne Seilly - Luton & Leighton AM Bryony Insua-Summerhays - Oxford LM Hannah Stranex - Surrey Borders AM Laurence Hall - London West AM Peyton Lee - North East Thames AM Tamara Ulliyart - Darlington LM Will Reed - York AM

2022.10.1 Report on Planning Weekend

We have heard a report from Rachael Booth about our last Planning Weekend, which was held online from 10-11 September 2022.

2022.10.2 Report of Trustees

We have heard a report from our Convenor of Trustees Jenny Herbert about the work of trustees since our last gathering, which has included:

- Amendments to the data protection policy and appendix to the constitution.
- That in May we were overdue to file our 2019 and 2020 accounts with the Charity Commission. Independent Examinations of both sets of accounts have now been completed and these accounts filed.
- YFGM's trustees met with BYM trustees in September to report on YFGM as a community and discuss our plans for the future. BYM trustees send their greetings to YFGM.
- We have begun a project with Wendrie Heywood of Mindful Business Solutions to help us identify our needs in terms of admin support, including a survey of role-holders.

We thank Sasha Lawson-Frost and Hannah Stranex for their work on finance matters over the summer, especially since the end of James Davies' term as Finance Trustee. We particularly thank Sasha for her work as our Safeguarding Lead during her term as Pastoral Trustee.

A written report is appended to these minutes.

2022.10.3 Changes in policy

Jenny Herbert has reported on two changes to our policies which were made by trustees since the last YFGM. These changes were approved by Planning Weekend and we record them now.

The changes were:

- The adoption of appendix 1 to the YFGM constitution, defining the roles we appoint to.
- A technical update to the data protection policy.

The policies as approved are available for viewing on the YFGM website.

2022.10.4 Report on Meeting for Sufferings

We have heard a report from Chloe Scaling who attended Meeting for Sufferings on 1 October 2022 as a member of a review group tasked to consider the question of allowing the appointment of Friends not in membership of the Yearly Meeting to certain centrally-appointed roles within the Yearly Meeting.

The existing rules, which prevent such appointments, were reaffirmed by Meeting for Sufferings. Their discernment is in the context of wider discussions within Britain Yearly Meeting about membership.

We have considered this question in a special interest group at a previous YFGMs, which exposed interest in this topic among YFGMers. We hope that conversations about membership will be ongoing, and look forward to YFGM being a party to these conversations.

2022.10.5 Minute of BYM trustees

We note the receipt of a minute from BYM trustees (BYMT/22/09/11) and thank them for their commitment to “uphold YFGM in its vital work in nurturing and sustaining young Friends in our yearly meeting”.

2022.10.6a Nominations Returns

We receive the following minute which has been sent to us by our nominations committee:

“We feel hesitant bringing names to YFGM when we are unable to be sure that our roleholders will be given sufficient support and information to perform their role. We want to make sure that everyone appointed to YFGM roles is well supported. Nominations committee are particularly aware of this this weekend for Planning Weekend Newcomers and for Finance roles.

We will bring the question of support structures for roleholders to threshing for the next YFGM. In the meantime, we ask that all YFGMers support roleholders as they are able.”

2022.10.6b Nominations Returns

We appoint the Friends named in the below table to the roles specified. We release Friends as indicated in the table and thank all those named below for their service.

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Finance Trustee	None - vacancy brought forward	Sammy Gilbert	February 2026
Logistics	Zoe Marquis Two vacancies brought forward	Al Boliver Brown Two vacancies carried forward	October 2024
Logistics Trustee	None - vacancy	None - vacancy carried forward	-
Pastoral	Sasha Lawson-Frost Ellie Harding Jacob Webb	Sasha Lawson-Frost - term extended Ceridwen Jenkins One vacancy carried forward	February 2023 October 2025
Pastoral Trustee	Sasha Lawson Frost	Row Bashforth	February 2024
Fundraiser	None - vacancy brought forward	Romy Neale Guasch	February 2026
Planning Weekend Newcomer	Jessie Fenn Rin Molton [both prevented from attending last PW]	Jessie Fenn Elliot Mears Georgia Campbell	February 2023

We record that James Davies and Zoe Marquis have been released from their roles as Finance Trustee and Logistics Trustee respectively since the last YFGM.

We record the appointment of Sam Cooper as Convenor of Nominations and Chloe Scaling as Deputy Convenor. These appointments are made by the Nominations Committee. We also record the release of Rachael Booth as Convenor of Nominations.

Our outgoing Convenor of Nominations, Rachael Booth, reminded us that YFGM is able to co-opt people to committees, which means bringing someone on to join the committee for a short time, usually one YFGM. This can be a great chance to experience what a particular role is like, as well as briefly serve the community without long-term commitment, and we were encouraged to volunteer for co-option.

We expect logistics, pastoral, and nominations committees to all co-opt people for next YFGM. People interested in being co-opted should contact Chloe during this YFGM or email noms.yfgm@gmail.com.

2022.10.7 Consideration of the 2021 accounts

Further to minute 2022.05.04, we have not yet received a revised version of the 2021 accounts. An Independent Examination of these accounts is currently underway, and the annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed on time this weekend. We hope to receive the final 2021 accounts at our next YFGM.

2022.10.8 2023 Budget

At our workshop on Saturday, we heard about what YFGM spends money on and where our money comes from. We are reminded that it is important to make good use of the resources we have, and spend down our reserves to a point where we are able to open fundraising relationships once more. We are a charity, not a business, and our aim is to spend well enough to help achieve our goals as a community.

We have heard the proposed budget for 2023 presented by our clerks and attached to these minutes, and approve this, acknowledging that it may be necessary to update it as our plans for 2023 develop.

2022.10.9 Future meetings

We plan to gather for our next gathering from 24-26 February 2023.

Ahead of each gathering we hold a Planning Weekend, to thresh the agenda for the coming YFGM and to think about the future. Agenda items come out of suggestions and ideas from the community; an idea might become a SIG which then becomes a business item, and from there becomes an event, a project, or, well, God knows what.

Our next Planning Weekend will be from 13-15 January 2023, and we plan to hold this as an in-person event, as we did before the Covid-19 pandemic. All are welcome to attend Planning Weekend, and travel expenses will be paid for those whose roles require them to attend.

2022.10.10 Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups this weekend were:

- Membership - Tim Rouse
- Walk around walls of York - Jaz Higgs
- Rearranging Trustees - Tim Rouse and Tim Hall Farthing
- George Gorman Memorial Trust - Mark Russ
- Repair cafe - Gray Wood
- Project worker - Tim Hall Farthing

- Simpler structures & processes in BYM - Ellie Harding
- Moravian Side-Wound Theology - Sasha Lawson-Frost

We thank those who facilitated Special Interest Groups, and encourage anyone who would like to run a SIG at a future YFGM to speak to the Logistics committee.

2022.10.11 Co-options

We thank Laurence Hall who was co-opted to join the Logistics Committee for the weekend.

2022.10.12 Change of Signatory

Further to our minute 2022.10.6b above, we record that Sammy Gilbert shall be added as a signatory to the bank accounts, and that James Davies, our former Finance Trustee, shall be removed.

The current signatories to the bank account are therefore:

- Sammy Gilbert, Finance Trustee
- Tom Bell, Treasurer
- Jenny Herbert, Convenor of Trustees
- Hannah Stranex, Co-clerk

2022.10.14 Clerks' Offering

We return to York / as to an old friend's embrace / renewed and refreshed.

For some, being at YFGM is returning to a comfortable maelstrom of dearly beloved Friends and familiar faces. For others, it is a flurry of new experiences, acronyms, and learning the ways of our community.

For all of us, it's a chance to meet new people; a place for discussing things you've never had a chance to speak about; where you can have a heart-to-heart conversation with a dear Friend you only met five minutes earlier. We have revelled with faces new and old, finding and sharing memories in the "night forest". Our youngest friend spent the game rolling battery-powered, flickering candles across the floor, sharing the light in a more literal way.

Eating together / living intentionally / finding comfort here

We have passed through Heaven and Hell, contemplated resurrection and anarchy, consumed and been consumed by porridge and the praise of the Orb - and that's just

our small groups. As we cook and clean together, share meals together, make cups of tea for one another, we form, for a brief and precious moment in time, an intentional, loving, faithful community.

This weekend has been / as befits YFGM / joy and pure chaos.

We have upheld one another through business items, through personal moments, through sleep deprivation. When we have stumbled, or felt like we had a spear in our side, we have helped one another up, and helped one another on.

Together we have experienced:

Sitting on the door / conversation and laughter / lanyard safekeeping

Deep conversations / repairing and upcycling / planning our future

We've enjoyed the diversity of special interest groups. We learned to repair our broken things instead of throwing them away, a lesson that can be more widely applied than just to objects. We talked about the future of YFGM's structure, considering support from within and without the meeting. We learned about the theological significance of Jesus' side-wound, and how we can take refuge in suffering while making the occasional bawdy joke.

We have taken comfort in the work of our nominations committee, whose efforts on our behalf are as always deeply appreciated.

The names brought forward / Could hardly be more perfect / bring relief and joy

This weekend has been busy, full of both long days and not enough time. As always for our October gatherings, the approach of winter is in the air, and as the sky darkens the room for our closing worship,

We share gratefully / a community of love / go well and in peace.

Signed, in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting,

Tim Rouse & Hannah Stranex

Co-clerks

Appendices & Further Information

- A: Trustee report
- B: Budget 2023
- Appendix 1 to the constitution & data protection policy:
<https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/constitutional-documents/>

YFGM Trustee Update Report

29 October 2022

Key Points:

- The 2019 and 2020 annual returns were submitted to the Charity Commission, and show as submitted on time on the Charity Commission website due to a Covid extension.
- Finance Trustee, James Davies, was released in August.
- YFGM Trustees met with Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees on 2nd September.
- Trustees agreed to fund a project to examine our structures and procedures.

Background

1. YFGM is a charity and so we have a body of trustees whose job it is to ensure the general meeting is well run with proper regard of the law and good practice in general.
2. As of the writing of this report, trustees are made up of: co-clerks, management trustee, communication trustee, elder trustee, pastoral trustee, and convenor of trustees.

Reporting to the Charity Commission

3. As a charity, YFGM must submit an annual return for the previous financial year to the charity regulator (Charity Commission) by 31 October.
4. When trustees last reported to the general meeting in May, YFGM's annual returns for the 2019 and 2020 financial year were still unsubmitted, making them overdue. This was mostly due to issues with the 2019 accounts, which carried forward into 2020's accounts.
5. The Charity Commission gave charities whose annual returns were overdue from 2019 an extension due to COVID, and gave YFGM the opportunity to have our extension honoured if we submitted by 31 July.
6. Both sets of accounts were worked on, independently examined (a light touch version of an audit), and submitted before the end of the Charity Commission Covid extension.
7. Special thanks to Tom Bell (treasure), James Davies (former finance trustee), Tim Rouse (clerk), and trustees as a whole for all the hard work that went into sorting this out.

Finance Committee

8. In our current structure the finance committee should include a finance trustee, treasurer, and fundraiser. As of the writing of this report, we only have a treasurer.¹
9. The former finance trustee, James Davies, stayed in the role longer than his triennium. As the YFGM constitution only allows trustees to stay in role for 3.5 years he was released as a trustee at the end of August.

¹ Following the trustee update report, on 30 October Sammy Gilbert was appointed as Finance Trustee, and Romy Neale Guasch as Fundraiser. We now have a full finance committee.

10. During this interim period without a finance trustee, other trustees stepped up to support Tom Bell (treasurer). Hannah Strannex and Sasha Lawson-Frost attended training and supported Tom. Thanks to Tom, Hannah and Sasha for their hard work.

Meeting with Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Trustees

11. YFGM receives a grant from BYM, whose trustees have a cycle of inviting guests to speak with them from the organisations they give grants to.
12. YFGM trustees met with BYM trustees on 2nd Sept. Clerks, convenor or trustees, elder trustee and management trustee were in attendance.
13. We gave a background on YFGM, our challenges with roles structure and the pandemic, and had a discussion on becoming a thriving community again.
14. BYM trustees send their greetings to YFGM.

Admin Support and the Coordinator Role

15. During the worst of the pandemic, we lost the coordinator role based in Friends house who provided admin support and acted as a focal point for communication inside and outside YFGM.
16. The alternative admin support provided by Friends House to replace it was not adequate for our needs, and so Trustees have ended the arrangement and have been considering possible future options.
17. As part of this, we agreed to fund a project from Mindful Business Solutions (MBS) to examine our structures and work with role holders to define the admin support we need in place.
18. As part of this, MBS circulated a survey to role holders in August and have written a report based on the results.
19. Thanks to Tim Hall Farthing for his work on the project, driving this essential work forward.