

Draft Minutes of the 46th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Cambridge Room at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel on Wednesday 2nd October 2024

In Attendance:- Janis Wright (Chair), Elaine Allman (Treasurer), Janice Stace (Secretary), Karen Colbeck (Newsletter Editor), Lynne Gray, Brian Mullen, Adele Storr and Andrew Storr

The meeting commenced at 19:25

46.1 Apologies – None

46.2 Minutes of the 45th Meeting – these were agreed and signed by JW

46.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda – Andrew is still investigating the problems with the speaker system.

46.4 Chairperson's Report. As it is only two months since our last meeting, we have only had two events. The first in August was at Stillingfleet Nursery, where we were given a short talk by the owner of the origins of their journey when they bought the property and the land. We all then did our own thing by looking around the very interesting gardens; having a drink and cake in the little tea room, followed by buying from the small shop and the nursery. The weather stayed fairly good, although a few showers came about and then we went onto the local church where we had an excellent talk about the village, the occupants of the cemetery and the early Norman church. When you have good speakers, it makes the subject come alive.

In September the speaker talked about the Roman town of Aldborough which is only a few miles from York. Because they have done some excavation there, we could see a map of the original town and its great importance for the North of England. I think a lot of us would like to revisit/visit the site to see for ourselves.

The two coming talks are on glass and nature and then we have the joy of our Christmas lunch at the Pavilion. We then meet again in February and look to book 2025!

46.5 Secretary's Report

Last week I completed SEN's for our November talk and the Christmas Social in December, as a last test before the new system went live. I asked for an amendment concerning the uploading of a booking form, which Kadie has taken into account. I have also entered the dates for all of our talks at Fairfield in 2025, which apparently makes life easier when I come to complete the SEN's for those events. Kadie has sent out the instructions for the new process, please see the attachments above, and her e-mail below. I cannot open the attachments by 'Preview', so I have had to download them. I think that there is probably too much to take in before Wednesday's Committee meeting, so we can have a fuller discussion in February.

The additional promotional e-mails for the selected Groups, of which York was one, has been put back due to the restructure at the Boundless office.

Club Council Report – Since the last York Group Committee meeting in August, I have attended a meeting with Member Communities as Club Treasurer, to consider how the team is moving on from the re-structure, a Club Management Group meeting, a Club Council meeting, a meeting with Gerard O'Sullivan, Madeleine Grubb and Geoff Gaunt, to discuss what happens next, a Health and Safety and Risk training session by Teams, a meeting with Kadie to discuss the 2025 budget bids, a Board 3 year Strategy meeting, and a Board meeting by Teams.

The membership of Boundless was 155, 213 as at the 25th September. There is about 10% of members who leave every year for various reasons, and the new members joining this year up to 25th September is 7,634 (previous years figures 6,773). About one third of new members are paying the extra for Boundless Plus, and about 50% join on line. The retention rate after year two of a membership is 90% which is considered very good.

The Volunteer's Reward Fund for 2025, given for increase in membership, innovation, interesting events and good newsletters, has been awarded to the North East London, Peterborough, Surrey, Thames Valley and Tamar Groups.

Boundless has been received 'A Great Place to Work' award with a score of 73% - the target to achieve certification is 65%. The qualification was based on a survey of those employed at Brighton and the various leisure properties. The renewal of the Investors in Volunteers accreditation is currently under way.

45.6 Treasurer's Report – 01/07/24 to 30/09/24

Since our last committee meeting we have enjoyed a visit to Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens & St Helen's Church, attended by 23 Members. Our first Autumn meeting with David Roberts on Romans on our Doorstep attracted 39 Members & 1 Guest. As we were moved into an alternative room, we received free drinks to compensate. I have paid £25 deposit for our 2025 to Skipton Canal trip . We received a payment in error of £192 from Durham River Trip & this was refunded through the bank . I have purchased 8 Gift Vouchers to a total of £180 from the Volunteer Fund to award our hard working committee members . This leaves £39.20 from the 2023 allocation . York Group has been awarded £600 for 2024 Volunteer Award & I have requested that it be paid into our account . The committee should now discuss the use of the Award ongoing . I paid £46 as subsidy for the Stillingfleet visit from the Raffle Account . This leaves a balance of £65.71 at the end of September. Dependent on the, October & November Income ,we should be able to subsidise the Christmas Lunch by at least £1pp per Member & Guest . To be discussed at the Committee Meeting . For the remainder of expenses for 2024 I have claimed £1200.00 . Therefore ,over 2024 , I have claimed £3945 out of the estimated budget of £4510. I have submitted the estimated budget for 2025 ,agreed by the Committee ,as £4794 . This is an increase of £284 on the current year . This is mainly due to the increased cost of room hire & drinks for Mercure Fairfield Manor for next year. I have contacted York Pavilion Hotel re our Christmas Lunch on Dec.18th. They have agreed that I can submit our menu choices,, number of guests and payment by November 28th.

46.7 Accidents/Incidents - JS stated that she had recently attended a Health and Safety training course on-line, and as a result had moved the report up the Agenda. Further information required in case of a fire alarm is how the alarm will be sounded and communication with the hotel, together with who will take responsibility for the situation, contact the emergency services as necessary, and contact or make the report to Boundless. Near misses also have to be reported and JS explained what was considered to be a near miss.

There has been nothing to report since the last Committee meeting.

46.8 Past Events Review – see JW's report above

46.9 Future Events 2024 –the October and November events are finalised.

December 18th – the Christmas Lunch at the York Pavilion – attendance will be 12:30 for 1:00pm. The cost is £29.95, rounded up to £30. The cost to members and one guest each will be £28, with additional guests being charged £30. The cost for the Committee members attending will be paid for out of the Volunteers Reward Fund. The details and booking form will be attached to the next newsletter which will be available at the next Club night. JW handed out raffle prizes from her stock to the Committee members to wrap and bring to the lunch

46.10 Boundless York Newsletter – Kren reported that there are 111 people on the mailing list. The October cut off date for the newsletter has been brought forward as she is on holiday.

46.11 2025 Calendar –

January 29th – talk on Chaplaincy at Heathrow Airport by the Rev. Kath McBride, organised by AS. KC will need the details for the October newsletter.

February 26th – talk on archaeology by Arron Johnson, the amount of the donation to be confirmed - organised by LG

March 26th – AGM and a talk on cheese arranged by Andrew S. The cost of the intended speaker was considered to be too expensive. A talk on teas was considered and AS will investigate. BM will also look at a replacement speaker on cheese.

April 30th – talk on teddy bears, now being given by JW who has asked that a donation be given to a charity for bears.

May 28th – talk – ‘Staying at the Real Marigold Hotel’ by Maggie Poppa, cost approx.. £35 to be given to charity and £15 for travel expenses. Arranged by BM.

June 11th – self- drive trip for an afternoon tea with a tour of the Bar Convent. The date has been confirmed and booked. EA will pay the deposit.

July 17th – Self Drive trip to Sion House. The cost of the house tour is £24pp which includes tea/coffee. Further discussion on the logistics. There is no food at Sion House, and the Birds of Prey Centre adjacent only offers snacks. It was decided that the tour of the house would be booked for 2:00pm. A booking for the Bird of Prey Centre would not be included in the trip, but details would be given to the members in case they wanted to visit. JW to book the tour for 2:00pm, ask if a deposit is required and check what food is available in the area.

August 20th – Coach trip to Skipton for trip on the canal. The cost of the cruise and the ploughman’s lunch is £29 with an additional £2.50 for dessert. Discussion took place as to whether this should be a self- drive trip. EA will investigate the cost of a coach as this is better for the disabled. Organised by AS.

September 24 – a talk by Sam Shipman on ‘How Andy Sturgeon and the NT brought the Mediterranean to North Yorkshire’. Cost £50, organised by AS.

October 29th – a talk ‘When the Queen Came to Tea’ by Mary Murray - EA

November 26th –a talk by the RSPCA ‘The Joys and Sadness of the RSPCA’. This has been booked by JW, with the fee being a donation.

December TBC

The Committee meetings will all be on the first Wednesday of the month – i.e. 5th February, 7th May, 6th August and 1st October.

46.12 AOB – None

46.15 – the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 5th February.

There being no further items, the meeting closed at 21:45

ACTIONS

AS – to forward details of the January talk to KC

Speaker required for the AGM

JW to book the Sion House guided tour, and investigate food possibilities in the area.

EA to investigate the cost of a coach for the Skipton Boat Trip.