

## **Draft Minutes of the 51st Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Library at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel YO30 1XW on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2026**

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

The meeting commenced at 19.25

### **51.1 Apologies – None**

**51.2 Minutes of the 50th Meeting –** In the last minutes the date of the next meeting was incorrect. This had been amended shortly after sending to Member Communities. The minutes were agreed and signed by JW

**51.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda – none**

### **51.4 Chairperson's Report**

We have had four events since our last meeting, the first being at the end of October when Mary Murray gave us a talk on when the Queen came to tea. As secretary to the Archbishop of York, the visit coincided with York races and was one of the most entertaining talks about the organisation of the event and yes, walls have to be painted and furniture moved and so on!

In November we had a Trustee from the RSPCA giving a talk---he had only been in the position for a year and it showed as the local branch he seemed to know little about and although we got the history of the charity, it would have been nice to know about events and working of the local branch.

In December we had our Christmas lunch at the Pavilion Hotel and although the meal was good there were other parties in other rooms, but not an increase of staff. It would have been so much better if each table had been served separately----do you wait until everyone on your table has their plate before you start to eat and expect yours then to be cold? The staff were friendly, but overworked and the meal and general ambience was excellent. The raffle went down well and everyone seemed to enjoy. I certainly think we should book again for this year.

In January we had Eric Jackson give a talk on when the Saints go marching in. I think the lighting was too dim for him because he got lost between what was on the screen and what was in his notes! The talk was interesting, especially about local saints, but it was short and somewhat confusing for the audience.

This month we have a talk on being a magistrate and next month at the AGM we have a honeyed talk!

Now we start throwing around ideas for 2027, which at the rate this year is galloping, is sooner than we think.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday with ideas at your fingertips.

### **51.5 Secretary's Report –**

Since the last Committee meeting forms SEN have been submitted for all talks up to and including May. This resulted in an e-shot being issued at the end of January which included our events up to April along with a couple of the Leeds Group's events.

I have recently checked the York Group's web page on the Boundless website and discovered that the details on the York page included the May talk with the dates given as April. The correct date was shown on the Calendar, and I have contacted Member Communities to correct this with Jack replying that he has done the amendment. At the same time I noticed that the Caravan Rally called the Lincoln Season Finale has been included. I have asked Jack about this because I only found this out when checking for other things, so I presume that none of you are aware of this either. The problem with this is that you have to go through to the third page before full details for the organiser are shown, so I would like your opinion before I write back to Jack. Apparently we can have it removed if we wish. At the Committee meeting I will be asking for details of the summer trips and the September talk for the next round of SEN's so that we can be considered for an e-shot later in the year.

## **51.6 Treasurer's Report –**

There were 2 monthly events & the Christmas Lunch in QBA4. The monthly events attracted 30 Members & 3 Guests in October ,25 Members & 2 Guests in November & 55 Members & 4 Guests at the Christmas Lunch . Our total attendance for 2025 is 375 Members ,including 2 New Members, & 18 Guests .This is 38 less than in 2024.

We received £790 Imprest to cover expenditure & £160 Volunteer Award to be used for a Volunteer Meal . At the end of the year £4320 had been claimed on Imprest for Club Expenditure against a budget forecast for 2025 of £ 4794. This included £300 for deposit for the Wensleydale Railway event in 2026. The advanced deposit of £750 for the Christmas Lunch was repaid from ticket sales . We carried forward £905.34 to 2026 ,

The Raffle Income fo QBA 4 was £115.10 which gave a yearly total of £309.10. After annual expenses , summer events subsidies & the subsidy for the Christmas Lunch of £100.47 , it leaves £77.60 to carry forward to 2026

The Volunteer Award outstanding from 2024-2025 was used to cover the Committee Christmas lunch and Gift Vouchers . The Account for 2024-25 is now closed . The £160 Volunteer Award for 2025-26 will be used toward the Committee Lunch in March

## **51.7 Club Council Report –**

The Club Strategy has been agreed and this places the Club at the forefront for action, finance and communication.

The original pilot for a new Group in Darlington had been postponed because the numbers of members in the area at the moment are too low to warrant the financial input. In addition, the Tamar and Edinburgh Group Committees are struggling to get Secretary/Treasurer roles filled and so efforts will be made to support them instead. The remaining two Groups in the pilot – Bath/Bristol and Bournemouth will continue as planned and the initial letters to members in those areas will be issued shortly. There is a thought that Group finances could be centralised, but there has to be further investigation into bank processes/Finance Teams input etc first.

A new Volunteers page will come live on the website in the next few weeks, and this will cover the different aspects of volunteering with advice on how to proceed.

Amendments have been made to the Welcome Pack which raise the profile of volunteering.

Website updates – the website is being updated to improve security and speed of the site. At the same time the digital team have taken the opportunity to review the design and improve the user experience. This is due to be launched in May and will include improved mobile compatibilities and Google and Apple Pay, AI powered search and a new location map based event and Group finder, with the aim of making it easier for members to discover and participate in activities.

**51.8 - Boundless York Newsletter –** KC reported that there are 110 people on the mailing list. The next newsletter will be issued early next week.

**51.9 Accidents/Incidents –** none. JS reported that consideration should be given to incidents to make sure that there wasn't a trend.

**51.10 Past Events Review –** see Chair's Report above.

**51.11 Future Events 2026 –** the additional details for 2026 events are as follows:-

June 13<sup>th</sup> – the coach will leave York at 10:15, going via the garden centre to arrive at Leeming Bar where the train leaves at 1:30pm. The cost for the rail trip is based on 30 people but there is the opportunity to include up to 10 people extra. It was decided to book a coach that will take the total number of people and the cost of this is £510.

July 15<sup>th</sup> – the Hooting Owl tour is in the afternoon.

August 19<sup>th</sup> – the Abbey tour is free but it was decided to charge a donation of £5pp. It was also decided that the lunch should be restricted to four choices, all at the same price, to be pre-ordered and paid for in advance.

October 28<sup>th</sup> – it was decided to cancel the speaker for this event. BM will contact Roger Browne to book him and the Cole Porter Story instead.

December 16<sup>th</sup> – it was decided to book the Pavilion Hotel again. JW will check when the Leeds Christmas Lunch is being held.

**51.12 Mercure Fairfield Manor Contract –** EA has contacted the hotel to check the prices for altering the January and February dates to start at 2:00pm instead of the evening. It was agreed to book the afternoons on a trial basis.

**51.13 - 2027 Calendar**

January 27<sup>th</sup> – Mary Murray talk ‘Working for the Archbishop of York’ EA

February 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Meeting

February 24<sup>th</sup> – Malcolm Brookes talk ‘Yorkshire’s Vanishing Coastline’ LG to contact

March 31<sup>st</sup> AGM Adele to contact a vineyard for a talk

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Chris Helm talk ‘Brass Bands’ JW

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Committee Meeting

May 26<sup>th</sup> – David Banks talk ‘Alum Mining’ Andrew

June – Coach trip to the Richmond Theatre EA

July – trip to Norton Conyers JW

August 4<sup>th</sup> – Committee Meeting

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Vineyard trip Adele

September 29<sup>th</sup> – Grace Olsen talk on horses and stables, details to be supplied by Pete Banks

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Committee Meeting

October 27<sup>th</sup> - Mary Smith talk ‘A Schoolgirls War’ JS

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Colin Perrott talk ‘Collecting Spectacles for Abroad’

December – Christmas Social TBA

**51.14 AOB** – To note that the York Group won the Boundless Group of the Year Award.

Lunch is to be booked at Maxi’s to celebrate Brian’s retirement from the Committee and Elsie is to accompany him.

KC has received an e-mail from a member who has volunteered to help the York Group but does not want to join the Committee. She will forward this to JS.

**51.15** – The date of the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday May 6th at the Mercure Fairfield Manor Hotel in the Library at 7:15pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

**ACTIONS**

All to progress 2026 and 2027 events as above.