

Draft Minutes of the 45th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Cambridge Room at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel on Wednesday 7th August 2024

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

The meeting commenced at 19:15

45.1 Apologies – received from Lynne Gray

45.2 Minutes of the 44th Meeting – these were agreed and signed by JW

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

45.4 Chairperson's Report – It has been an interesting and exciting few months since our last meeting. On the 29th May it was our last meeting at Fairfield Manor Hotel before our Summer break. Our original speaker cancelled late in the day and our substitute failed to turn up. So at the last minute (literally) I gave an hour talk on my start in Music and my time at the Royal College of Music in London----it seemed to go down well and I surprised myself about how much I could remember!

On the 13 June we had a coach trip to Hawes Creamery (organised by Andrew), followed by a visit to Brymor Ice Cream parlour, where everyone indulged in ice cream cones and I partook of a large sundae. The trip was excellent, it was a pity we did not see the actual making of the cheese as they were cleaning up by the time we arrived.

On the 6th July there was a visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park (near Doncaster) organised by Boundless Head Office. I managed to hire a scooter and therefore was able to visit all the areas of the park, which I loved. The only great downpour we had was whilst having lunch---how lucky were we!

On the 10th July we had another coach trip, this time to Renishaw Hall near Chesterfield. This was the home of the Sitwell family and the property is still occupied by the family. The gardens were interesting; the guide to the house was not only excellent but also was very knowledgeable about the house and family. The small bite cafe was a bit of a misnomer as the portions were very substantial and very reasonably priced.

On the 15th August we have a self- drive trip to Stillingfleet Nursery and gardens and the local church. One hopes that it will be dry but not boiling hot!

At the end of September we are back at Fairfield Manor for the Autumn and Winter season.

45.5 Treasurer's Report – 01/04/24 to 30/06/24

There were 2 meetings at Mercure Fairfield Manor in April & May 2024. There were 30 Members & 1 Guest in April & 36 Members & 3 guests in May . Also we enjoyed a very successful visit to Hawes Creamery in June which 33 Members attended . However, as we budgeted for filling a 36 seater coach ,we made a loss of £53.35. This was subsidised by Boundless. In July we visited Renishaw Hall & this was pre paid for in QBA2. Unfortunately there were only 24 bookings which incurred a loss of £158. Again this was subsidised by Boundless. Therefore we may have to review the future use of coaches as the cost was for them this year was £500 & £490. I claimed 2 Imprests in QBA 2 of £600 & £675 (£475 for the deposit for Christmas) .Our Raffle Income was £65 giving a total of £220.71. However ,to date ,I have subsidised 2 events Christmas Dinners,7 Committee Lunches & 5 Summer Events . I will submit the details on a separate report & totalling £142.50. This leaves a balance of £78.21, but a further subsidy will be paid in August for Stillingfleet . Therefore we may struggle to

subsidise the Christmas Lunch. The Budget submission for 2024 was £4510 .I have claimed £2745 to date ,which includes the Christmas deposit . An Imprest claim will be submitted in September for the rest of the year's expenses . I will also be required to submit our Budget forecast for 2025 in August . In December 2023 we received a very generous £750 Volunteer Award . To date we have used £530.80 to pay for 9 the awarding of the remainder £21.20 can then be discussed at the Committee Meeting .

Calculations at Appendix A

45.6 Secretary's Report –

I have put the reports for the Secretary and the Club Council together as they overlap to an extent. The re-organisation of some of the roles at Brighton has caused some things to be delayed. I had been the Club Treasurer for barely two weeks when I was told that the role of Head of Member Communities was at risk, along with ten other roles. The original timetable for informing the people involved was by the third week in March, and for obvious reasons this had to be kept secret until the announcement was made. The date of the announcement was then put back to the third week in May, so that concentration could be given to the launch of the new Boundless Plus membership. .

The result of the announcement was that Nick Hoath and five others took redundancy on advantageous terms, and NH left after about a fortnight. Kadie was promoted to be the new Head of Member Communities, with Pete Worster taking on parts of the original role. There was a handover day with NH, Kadie and Pete, but this has probably not covered everything, and because of annual leave the meeting between myself ,Kadie, Pete and probably will not take place until the end of August. Because of the changes, the last Club Council meeting was on the 15th May (normally every two months) and the last Club Management Group meeting on the 11th June, was chaired by Kadie, so the work on the Volunteers Reward Fund has stalled temporarily. In my capacity as Treasurer/Director I along with Geoff have also been given the job of finding ways of widening the pool of people from which nominations can be taken for the roles of Club Leader and Club Treasurer – per the Articles of Association these currently have to come from the Club Council, and both Geoff and I were the only ones who nominated themselves for our current roles.

The Calendar pages have been removed from the Boundless magazine, on the basis that there was evidence which proved that the entries did not encourage people to engage with the Club. In the place of this is an initiative to engage local members who do not currently attend Local Groups' events. The Groups involved are:- North East – York and Leeds, East – Peterborough and Ipswich, South East – Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, and Farnborough and Guildford, South – Dorset and Swindon, South West – Tamar and the new Bristol Group, North West – Chester and Wirral and Scotland – Edinburgh and the Lothians. Unfortunately, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells unexpectedly folded last week due to age, ill health etc. The original timetable was for an e-mail to go out to the members local to those Groups over a period starting at the end of August, with details of a visit to a local place of interest. This may be Harewood House for us and Leeds, but because of the re-organisation, I am not sure how well this is progressing. The visit will take place in spring and the booking will be in a similar manner to the Member Days, but the availability will only be for those local members who do not already attend our events. Along with this will be details of the Local Groups and their events. There was a plan for the Local Groups to be involved with this, so I will report on this when I have further details.

45.7 Club Council Report – see above

45.8 Past Events Review – see JW's report above

45.9 Future Events 2024 –

15th August – Stillingfleet Lodge Nurseries – there are 23 people booked.

The September, October and November talks are finalised. JS asked for details of the talks to be sent to her and Karen for the SENs and newsletter.

December 18th – Christmas Social -The menu choices are required to be sent three weeks before (the request was for four weeks). The cost was agreed as £29 for the member and one guest, with £30 for additional people. A claim is normally made for the cost to the Committee for the raffle prizes for this event, with the proceeds of the raffle being given as a tip to the staff. There is not sufficient money in the raffle fund this year to do that, and so JW will look at what she has to check if there is anything that can be used, and a decision about the raffle will be made at the October Committee meeting.

45.10 Boundless York Newsletter – KC reported that there are currently 111 names on the mailing list. The next newsletter will be issued later this month and will include details of the Autumn talks. KC asked to include Member Communities on the mailing list so that they receive the newsletter, which can then be circulated to other Groups.

45.11 Volunteers Reward Fund – JS confirmed that the Reward Fund will be distributed on the same basis this year as last, but discussions are taking place on how it will be dealt with next year

45.12 2025 Calendar –

January 29th – talk on Chaplaincy at Heathrow Airport by the Rev. Kath McBride, organised by AS

February 26th – talk on archaeology by Arron Johnson, organised by LG

March 26th – AGM and a talk on cheese arranged by Andrew S

April 30th – talk on teddy bears. This has been booked with Elizabeth Edwards, but it has been established that she only includes the history of the Steiff factory. It was therefore decided to cancel that and JW will give a talk on teddy bears in general.

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 26th – self drive trip for an afternoon tea with a tour of the Bar Convent. The date has to be confirmed.

July 17th – Self Drive trip to Sion House. The cost of the house tour is £24pp which includes tea/coffee. However there is nowhere to eat a proper lunch. The cost of the entry to the Wild Bird Centre is an additional £8.95, and there is a snack bar, but this is very basic. It was decided to book the house tour at 10:00am which takes 2.5 hours, and leave it up to individuals as to whether they wanted to visit the Bird Centre. There is also the option to visit Thirsk for food etc.

August 20th – Coach trip to Skipton for trip on the canal. It was decided to book a two hour cruise including a plated ploughman’s lunch, costing £29. There will be the cost of the coach in addition to this. The cruise starting at 12:00am will be booked. If there are more than 25 people booked on our trip then we will have sole use of the boat. 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.

November 26th –a talk by the RSPCA ‘The Joys and Sadness of the RSPCA’

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.

45.13 Accidents/Incidents – none since the last report.

45.14 AOB – None

45.15 – the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd October

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

ACTIONS

Andrew S – deal with the speaker system

JW – to look for suitable raffle prizes for Christmas

To finalise 2025 events where necessary.

Appendix A – Treasurer’s Report

THE BANK BALANCE IS MADE UP OF:

Bank/cash 01/04/24 £1,267.03

Bank	30/06/24	£980.61
Cash	30/06/24	£95.37
Total	30/06/24	£1,075.98

THE BANK BALANCE IS MADE UP OF:

Raffle York Funds	£78.21
CSMA	£778.57
Volunteer Funds	£219.20
Total	£960.38

Elaine Allman, Treasurer York Group

2024	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Total Income Brought Forward	£960.38	£1,267.03			£2,227.41
Volunteer Award	£0.00	£0.00			£0.00
Imprests	£1,470.00	£1,275.00			£2,745.00
Raffle Proceeds	£109.00	£65.00			£174.00
Event Ticket Sales	£0.00	£1,378.00			£1,378.00
Total Income	£2,539.38	£3,985.03			£6,524.41
Expenditure					
Travel	£28.70	£45.50			£74.20
Misc.	£0.00	£0.00			£0.00
Stationery / Publicity	£5.95	£0.00			£5.95
Postage	£12.00	£10.20			£22.20
Volunteer Award	£93.30	£167.50			£260.80
Room Hire	£580.00	£410.00			£990.00
Social/Speakers	£140.00	£140.00			£280.00
Raffle Prizes /Subsidy	£0.00	£142.50			£142.50
Events	£0.00	£1,847.35			£1,847.35
Catering	£395.00	£129.00			£524.00
Bank charges	£17.40	£17.00			£34.40
Total Expenditure	£1272.35	£2,909.05			£4,181.40

Carried Forward

CUMULATIVE ACTIVITY STATISTICS

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Total Member events held	3	3			6
Members attending	104	99			203
Of whom, first time attenders	0	0			0
Non-members attending	7	4			11
Total attendance	114	106			217