



**Minutes of the meeting of Council held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014,  
at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry CV5 9BA**

**Present:** Miss Claire Worden (Chairman of Council), Miss Hannah Talbot (Vice Chairman of Council), Mr Chris Manley (Vice Chairman of Council) members & Guests as recorded in the Attendance Book.

**In Attendance:** Mr James Eckley NFYFC Chief Officer & National Staff Team, as recorded in the Attendance Book.

	Actioned By
C/14/01 <b>1. Chairman's welcome</b> - CW welcomed all members and guests to the first council meeting of the year, and especially welcomed Mr Poul Christensen CBE, National President.	
C/14/02 CW congratulated Roy Boreham on receiving the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.	
C/14/03 CW congratulated members Milly Wastie & Andrew Fyfe, and Paul Glanvill & Lizzie Hunt on the announcements of their engagement.	
C/14/04 CW paid special thoughts to those members and families who are suffering from exceptional bad flooding and confirmed that YFC will do as much as possible to help in the coming weeks.	
C/14/05 CW appointed Jon & Anne Sarsfield as Tellers for the meeting, together with Chris Lloyd to oversee voting.	
C/14/06 <b>2. Apologies</b> were recorded in the attendance book.	
C/14/07 <b>3. Chairman's Diary Update</b> - CW had previously circulated the diary and encouraged counties and areas to continue to invite the officer team to their events and they would attend as many as possible.	
C/14/08 <b>4. Co-Options to Council</b> – CW noted that there remained two vacant positions for Co-options on Council and called for nominations. Three members were proposed and seconded: Faith Cosgrove, Jonathan Eayrs and Caroline Baker. Council voted using the single transferable voting papers. During the meeting CW announced that Faith Cosgrove and Caroline Baker had been duly elected as Co-options to council.	
C/14/09 <b>5. Correspondence</b>	
C/14/10 5.1 Meirionnydd – Fares Pool Issues – CW noted to Council that there has been ongoing correspondence for several months with Meirionnydd FYFC. CW read out a letter from the County which in summary explained that because they do not send any members to council meetings, they believe they should not contribute to the fares pool. CW has met and written to Dylan Jones and spoken with Ffion the member of staff to explain that fares pool is an 'all in or all out' option every County contributes fairly. CW gave council the example that Yorkshire FYFC are entitled to send 3 members to council, the same as Cornwall members who have to travel approx 490 miles to the meeting, whereas Warwickshire FYFC who are the closest to the meeting and have no objections to paying the £188.00 per member so that members are not disadvantaged to attend.	
C/14/11 David Hamer (Yorkshire) and Tracy Knowles (Cornwall) both agree that it is an all in thing and every county should contribute to make it a fair system.	
C/14/12 Faith Cosgrove (Cambridgeshire) and Toby France (Warwickshire) were more concerned with the fact that Meirionnydd members are not taking part in NFYFC activities and the reasons why they are not engaging with NFYFC events. CW noted that 19 members of the county have booked for convention, but the county does not take part in the NFYFC competitions programme.	
C/14/13 Eleri Robert (Acting Wales Staff Rep) was concerned that if any sanctions were placed on the county, this would have serious consequences, and she would not like to see the county leave NFYFC. ER noted that in the previous debate in Wales concerning affiliation to Wales YFC. Meirionnydd members had voted to stay affiliated to NFYFC. ER noted that the county do take part in the Wales YFC competitions.	
C/14/14 Hannah Talbot noted that there been a lot of work done with NFYFC and Wales YFC and both are engaging more and working well together, we should not be pushing members away, she suggested that perhaps if the county do not wish to pay fares pool, that each member attending convention should be charged	

a £200 registration fee. Eleri Roberts felt that members would then still go to Blackpool but not pay for a package.

c/14/15 Following the lengthy discussions, council agreed that CW and the officer team would continue to discuss the issue with the county to try and get a resolution and to help them to engage more. Their county fares pool invoice would be parked for the time being. However, all other county fares pool invoices would be sent out .

#### c/14/16 **6. Report from the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Steering Group – Russell Carrington**

RC asked council to approve that the Steering Group will be known as Agriculture and Rural Issues Steering Group using the hash tag #YFCAGRI for social media and acronym AGRI. Council voted and approved the name change.

c/14/17 RC asked council to note that Lynsey Martin had been elected as Vice-Chairman of the Steering Group

c/14/18 RC noted that the group had met with Steve Webster about the future of the matching service, and had also heard from Caroline Trude about her experience of the World Youth Ag Summit. RC noted that Ed Humber had given a presentation about the South West TB Advisory Service, planning for the AGRI Forum was in progress with the theme Agri-technology. Defra Grant events have been very successful and they are planning 2014/15 application.

c/14/19 Chris Manley gave council an update on CEJA (Council for European Young Farmers), CM noted that along with David Hamer, Charlotte Johnson and others YFC had been well represented at the meetings usually in Brussels. CM noted that there had been some good debate and some interesting campaigns going forward.

c/14/20 CM confirmed that sponsorship for CEJA for the coming year has been agreed with HOPS Labour Solutions Ltd, CM hoped to be able to publicise CEJA more across the areas and provide updates on the key points on a regular basis. CM noted that new reps are Catherine Bennett and Ellie Downing, also to use the AGRI reps and link members more to liaise with the membership and give their views on Agri issues.

#### c/14/21 **7. Report from the Competitions Steering Group – David Hamer**

c/14/22 DH noted that Parental Consent forms will be circulated on green paper and a reminder placed on social media prior to the National Final of competitions.

c/14/23 DH noted that a Dodgeball UK representative will attend the Staff Conference to forge links with YFC ready for 2015 national competition.

c/14/24 DH noted that BASC British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) competitions committee is to look into a clay pigeon shooting competition for YFC members.

c/14/25 DH noted that in respect of Judges & Stewards for 2013-14 and following suggestions made, NODA Judges are to judge the entertainments at both North and South Regional Finals and Finals.

c/14/26 DH noted that the Cube Exhibit is to be held at the Tenbury Show in 2014, and potentially looking at the craft competitions sewing and journey of tweed.

c/14/27 DH noted that clarification has been made with regard to the Side by Side ATV competency certificate which is required and this will now be a basic certificate, not as substantive as the City & Guilds certification.

c/14/28 DH noted that in respect of the Performing Arts competition, there has been a requirement for YFC to provide Child Performance Licences, however Margaret and Gill have sent a letter to Edward Timpson Minister for Education to gain exemption for YFC. The Scout movement have been successful in gaining exemption and we hope to do the same and we await a response.

c/14/29 DH noted that the 2014-2015 Rules were tabled at the steering group meeting and will be going out in draft form for consultation.

c/14/30 DH noted that the Pop Video will now be Pop Dancing.

c/14/31 DH noted that sports competitions will be Mixed Kwik Cricket 10 - 16 & under and Mixed Dodgeball 17 – 26 & under

c/14/32 DH noted a new sports competition will be Cross Country Individual & Team of 4 – 2x U26, 1x U21, 1x U16, includes a minimum of 1 male or 1 female

c/14/33 DH informed council that there will be a new individual darts competition to be held at Annual Convention this year. If this proves successful it may be held in future years.

c/14/34 DH asked council to approve that the photography competition held in 2013 – the committee have decided that the photos will be made into blank greetings cards to be on sale through Club Shop. Council approved this sale.

c/14/35 Sam Ainscow asked DH if it was possible to sell the blank cards on a more commercial basis, i.e. at farm shops. DH thought this was a good idea and will look into this.

C/14/36 **8. Report from the Communications Events & Marketing Steering Group – David Maidment**

C/14/37 DM noted that the steering group will be looking into the name of the steering group at the June meeting.

C/14/38 DM noted that the line up for Annual Convention 2014 is mostly confirmed. It was noted that Sarah Cox is not now available and the acts booked so far are: Friday night: Jameela Jamil and Boomin  
Saturday night: Aled Haydn Jones (plus one TBC) and Queen tribute act (as voted for by members)  
Sunday night: Scott Mills and Chris Stark, and the Tzars

C/14/39 DM noted that a new website dedicated to Annual Convention has been created and will be online soon.  
[www.yfcconvention.org.uk](http://www.yfcconvention.org.uk).

C/14/40 DM noted that Massey Ferguson are confirmed as the main Convention sponsor and the guest bar will be known as The Massey Ferguson Bar.

C/14/41 DM asked council for more volunteers to help stewards at Annual Convention, names to be given into Sandra Bromley after the meeting.

C/14/42 DM confirmed that Annual Convention 2015 and 2017 are confirmed and will be held in Torquay, Contracts have been signed and Blackpool will be in 2016.

C/14/43 DM noted that the social media guide book for counties was approved and will be sent out to counties and clubs shortly.

C/14/44 DM noted that the group agreed to invite a range of high profile people to become NFYFC ambassadors such as Matt Baker & Adam Henson. DM asked members to send names to Cheryl Liddle.

C/14/45 DM noted that the CEM Steering Group will now be looking after the YFC Ski trip and they will be looking into a new name, the basic cost for trips will be approx £399, with the option to add on extras. We are also looking at running a road trip with a maximum of 20 members and a stop off on the way.

C/14/46 DM noted that the group are reviewing the question on Facebook from a member who asked for ideas on how to recruit new members for counties that are struggling. The group discussed the idea of a recruitment drive and for clubs to increase contacts with local journalists.

C/14/47 **9. Report from the Personal Development Steering Group – Nicola Chegwidzen**

C/14/48 NC noted that the Ski trip for 2015 has been handed over to CEM Steering Group as it fits better as an event.

C/14/49 NC noted that the group have agreed the following Co-options – Robert Williams, Herefordshire, David Gwatkins – Agricultural Chaplain and Heather Coar

C/14/50 NC noted that the Events Health and Safety support guide has now been launched and is available on the NFYFC website.

C/14/51 NC noted that the next Trainers Forum will be held on the 13th April in Swindon.

C/14/52 NC noted that quotations are being obtained for 'The Source' to be printed into folders.

C/14/53 NC noted that we will be working with NCYVS, RSPB and the Canal and Rivers Trust to promote Youth Social Action in rural areas through community and environmental projects.

C/14/54 NC noted that Nicola, Ben and Sioned will be speaking about Overcoming Barriers to Participation in rural areas at a national event organised by the Woodcraft Folk.

C/14/55 NC noted that all spaces are now filled on the YFC Travel trips - 50% more applicants on this selection day than from previous days.

C/14/56 NC noted that YFA/NFYFC will be working on an 'YFC Travel All you need to know' document.

C/14/57 NC confirmed that India has been selected as the volunteering trip for next year, and that here is now an YFA rep in each Area to give help and guidance on hosting for members.

C/14/58 **10. Report from the Youth Forum - Sioned Davies**

C/14/59 SD noted that at the last meeting she was pleased to be voted in as Steering Group Chairman and Danielle McNulty and Helen Brown have been voted in as Vice Chairs.

C/14/60 SD noted that Ben Cavill, Sioned Davies and Tom Collison made a successful pitch to the CLA in December and has managed to obtain a stand for gratis at the CLA Game Fair in the Exploring Nature section.

C/14/61 SD noted that AGCO Parts have agreed (with gentle persuasion of the youth forum members) to provide branded polo shirts and pop-up stands for both the Discover AGCO trade show and CLA Game Fair.

C/14/62 SD noted that Freddie Wootton and Georgie Morris have successfully secured places on the U18 Tall Ships trip.

C/14/63 SD noted that Mid Devon Council have finally carried out all checks and have given permission for the

Youth Forum to bury the Time Capsule in Hemyock. The Youth Forum is considering holding the event during the start of the Easter Holidays.

C/14/64 SD noted that the Youth Forum have now raised £2.54 through Easy Fundraising up from 3p at the last meeting. Their next target is £10 by June. SD encouraged members to go online and register on the Easy Fundraising site and support the Youth Forum when making purchases.

C/14/65 SD confirmed that the 'Field to Fork' game is progressing nicely. The game has been tested and production quotes are being obtained. A funder will be required.

C/14/65 SD noted that members held a productive discussion regarding thoughts on developing work with Emily Sharlot of AGCO.

C/14/66 SD confirmed that members have fed in into the other steering group's agendas, and in June the Youth Forum will have their meeting during council weekend.

C/14/67 SD confirmed that Ben Cavill and Sioned Davies will be joining Nicola Chegwidden to lead a discussion on overcoming barriers to participation in rural areas at a national conference in February.

C/14/68 SD information council that the Youth Forum members have had an amazing time at the residential all thanks to AGCO Parts. They are very grateful for the support and funding they have received.

C/14/69 **11. Report from the Board of Management – Frank Chester & John Hardman**

C/14/70 FC noted that the board have appointed James Eckley as Chief Officer for NFYFC. Council applauded.

C/14/71 FC noted that the board have approved the new structure for the NFYFC Staff Team. FC displayed a copy of the current staff structure slide, and confirmed that an offer has been made for the Head of Development & Marketing. The offer has been accepted and the candidate will be commencing in July.

C/14/72 FC noted that the board have established a 'Risk, Audit & Finance Sub Committee' which will report directly back to the board.

C/14/73 FC noted that the board have established a working party to look at office accommodation.

C/14/74 FC noted that the board have approved the 'Vulnerable Adults Statement' which will be published shortly.

C/14/75 FC noted that NFYFC would like all expense claims, including council, to be submitted to NFYFC within a 3 month period following meetings.

C/14/76 FC noted that the board supports the suggestion from the NFYFC Chairman of Council to propose to change the date for the February 2015 Council meeting (21/22 February 2015), this will give more time for the Draft Year End Accounts to be approved and published. Council approved this change of date.

C/14/77 FC noted that the board supports the suggestion that the Steering Group Officers and National Officers are elected at the first meeting in February 2015 and thereafter. CW noted that it was important for the new steering groups and council to appoint their officers and that this does not affect the constitution. Council approved this change of date.

C/14/78 **12. NFYFC Finance Update – John Hardman**

C/14/79 JH circulated copies of the Draft Accounts – Council took a short break to enable them to view the accounts. JH noted that next year because council date will change it will be possible to send accounts out ten days earlier. JCE will put key circulation dates on the calendar of events.

C/14/80 JH gave council a comprehensive understanding of the accounts, highlighting the fact that NFYFC comes under the FCA Society and there are only 6/8 organisations and we are unique. JH noted that in future it may be something we wish to look at in respect of charitable status and being able to get gift aid.

C/14/81 JH noted that the accounts are now split out into different departments and are a lot easier to understand. JH noted the biggest point of concern is the HOPS donation which previously stood at £319,000, which will drop to an anticipated £125,000. JH noted that HOPS are going through a transitional period and they must keep sufficient capital going forward.

C/14/82 Therefore, NFYFC will be showing a deficit of £202,000 and has a big gap to plug, and this cannot be done by levy alone. JH noted that investments have performed well and the portfolio has gone for growth rather than capital. JH noted that some investment funds are restricted and there is a full explanation within the accounts as to what these funds can be spent on.

C/14/83 JH noted that the staff costs do include some exceptional costs including some errors in a Pensions Fund which previous NFYFC and some HOPS staff belong to and payments have had to be made to bring these funds back up to the correct amount. JH also noted that these costs include the CEO departure package and allowance for a full time communications officer.

- c/14/84 JH highlighted the favourable rates currently charged for the YFC Centre, and noted that NFYFC own their own building, but lease the land. NFYFC do not have to demolish the building should they choose to leave. The lease on the land expires in 2017 and the YFC working party will be looking at all the options available.
- c/14/85 Budgets – JH noted that copies of the budgets were handed to steering groups and further copies can be made available upon request.
- c/14/86 JH took questions from council; James Williams (Hertfordshire) queried why the exit package for the CEO had not been shown separately in the accounts? CW confirmed that it was HR legislation and due to a confidentiality clause that this is not disclosed.
- c/14/87 Sam Ainscow thanked JH and the Board of Management for listening to what the members have been asking for and thanked everyone for their hard work in producing the accounts and budgets. JH thanked SA and noted that Jim Minshaw, Shirley Ball and James Eckley had worked really hard to produce the right information for the members. JH confirmed that he has provided as much detail as he can but was happy to take any questions on the accounts after the meeting.
- c/14/88 James Williams (Hertfordshire) asked JH to explain the current situation with staffing in HOPS. JH outlined the reasons for Jimmy Davies and the reasons why JD took several staff members with him to Staffline Recruitment Company. JH noted that the remaining staff team are extremely business, Glyn Smith is now General Manager and JH/MS are supporting the team in the short term. JH hopes to deliver some good news on a new project at the next council meeting.
- c/14/89 Caroline Trude (Devon) noted the positive news for HOPS, and queried why we have left it so late to start looking the lease for the YFC Centre. JH noted that Lionel Hill/Rod Tuck and the Trustees have been looking into this for the past 15 years. It is not intended that YFC will move earlier than the Lease expiry date.
- c/14/90 David Maidment (Wiltshire) thanked JH for the concise accounts and queried the large amounts showing in the investment funds and whether NFYFC have any thoughts on how they will be spent. JH confirmed that the investments come under the NFYFC Trustees and they will be looking into the funds at their next meeting in April.
- c/14/91 JH noted that the board have discussed the levy in detail and if we were to get a 100% increase it would only bring in £208,000 based on last year's levy, and this would no way plug the gap. The board appreciates that an increase would have an effect on the county levy.
- c/14/92 JH noted that the Motion suggested for a 20% increase is the equivalent to £2.27 based on current numbers.
- c/14/93 CW proposed to council the following Motion be considered "That the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 be increased by 20%"
- c/14/94 Council voted and approved the above Motion.
- c/14/95 that following Motion be considered "That the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5.00 to £6.00 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. (20%)
- c/14/96 Council voted and approved the above Motion.
- c/14/97 CW asked council if they had any thought no how these Motions could be explained to the membership.
- c/14/98 James Williams/Stuart Jakeman suggested a supporting video or presentation which could be taken out. SJ suggested a video posting on facebook. Miranda McGinn noted that we need to be careful how this is done, as we would not wish to send the wrong message to our funders/sponsors that we are desperate for funds.
- c/14/99 Ed Humber (Cornwall) suggested an 'idiots guide to the accounts' Lynsey Martin (Kent) suggested a paper crib sheet. EH noted that there is a need to explain the HOPS situation and why their donation is reduced.
- c/14/100 JH noted that there is a need to be positive and to show the members the increased YFC travel trips and ski trips and the significant kickbacks which are likely to rise.
- c/14/101 Joanne Spendlove (Northampton) queried what NFYFC are doing to reduce the level of staff costs. JH noted that he has seen the current staff team work first hand and assured the members that the team are under extreme pressure with their current numbers. JH noted that they really are a 'lean mean charity machine'.
- c/14/102 CW thanked the council members for their positive thoughts and assured council that JCE/JH are cost cutting wherever they can at NFYFC. JH confirmed that NFYFC are looking at all their costs and reminded members that the Defra grant of £60,000 has to be spent and correctly documented and there needs to be transparency at all times.

C/14/103 CW lighted to council the breakdown of funds which Christina Evans has brought into NFYFC; he congratulated her on all the achievements over the last 3 years. 2012 – 2013 brought in £134,640, in 2013 to date this total is now £215,732. Council applauded Christina's hard work.

C/14/104 CW noted that as a team we have a 'leap of faith', we are trying to get it right and have broken down the accounts as much as we can and thanked JH/JM/JCE for all their hard work.

C/14/105 CW asked council to approve that the standard mileage rate for all NFYFC claims (**with the exception of Fares Pool**), should be standardised and set at 25p per mile. The only exception will be those mileage claims issued from contractors. JCE noted one amendment to the above highlighted in red. Council voted and approved the change.

C/14/106 JH noted that the officer's mileage expenses remain at 45p for the first 10,000 miles and 25p thereafter. Employee's mileage rates are in accordance with HMRC.

C/14/107 CW asked council to approve the Fares Pool rate which currently stands at £188.00 per council member. Council voted and approved this rate.

C/14/108 FC concluded his report by thanking council for putting their trust in the board going forward. FC also thanked Robert Blezard for his contribution to the board as Health & Safety Specialist and noted that the hard work and support to JCE which Bob gives to the membership on the annual convention.

C/14/109 **13. Election of the English Representative from Northern & East Midlands Areas on the Board of Management** – CW noted that one nomination had been received for David Hamer, proposed by: Jess Townson (Lancashire) and Gareth Laking (Lincolnshire). Jess Townson addressed council and in summary was pleased to propose David Hamer for this role, she noted that he is passionate about YFC competitions and always has a lot to say. David left Harper Adams in 1999 and has been Chairman of the NFU in his area since 2008. David has helped to set up a new YFC club in Yorkshire which now has 98 members. David has been an interim member on the board covering for Mark Houlton, and is currently looking at a new project for HOPS working with Askham Bryan. David is an excellent ambassador for YFC and Jess has no hesitation in nominating him for this role.

C/14/110 Gareth Laking addressed council and in summary was honoured to second the nomination for David Hamer. GL noted that David has always been very active in Lincolnshire where he met his girlfriend Adele. David has helped with the East Midlands Area weekends in Skegness, he is also passionate about the YFC Tug O'War competitions and as a qualified judge he has helped with at competitions weekends. David has been a real asset to both Yorkshire and East Midlands Area and GL has no hesitation in seconding the nomination.

C/14/111 Council voted and David Hamer was unanimously voted the English Representative on the Board of Management for Northern and East Midlands Areas. David addressed council and thanked JT & GL for their nominations and kind words. David was looking forward to continuing on the board and representing the areas and was happy to bring up any issues from the members and is always available at the end of the phone.

C/14/112 **14. Date of Next Meeting** - CW confirmed the date of the next meeting as: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry.

#### C/14/113 **15. Any Other Business**

C/14/114 **15.1 Rural+** - CW outlined to council her challenge for the year entitled Rural+, she noted that on a personal level she feels the need that we must support our members living in rural communities. She highlighted The Commission for Rural Communities who have identified three main causes of rural isolation: 1. Lack of income and employment; 2. Lack of transport and other services and 3. Social isolation – the lack of contact with, and help from relatives, friends and neighbours. CW noted that following our survey with FCN the results have reinforced these points and highlighted the issues affecting our members.

C/14/115 CW highlighted her four aims for the campaign Rural +; 1. To raise awareness of the factors contributing to rural isolation and the signs and symptoms for young people experiencing mental health issues. 2. To identify how YFC supports its' members (as individuals) and to help reduce the feelings of rural isolation and alleviate these symptoms. 3. To address the issues of rural isolation through NFYFC projects, making sure members are available to voice their opinions and influence policy makers, and finally to identify the work with organisations that can help members and make sure that club members have access to them.

C/14/116 CW set out a three point plan to all council and their members; 1. To find out who your local contacts are who support young people with mental health issues – such as The Farming Community Network, the NHS or a similar organisation. 2. To host a club evening on mental health and invite one of the above contacts to run the session, and finally 3. To promote YFC in their local communities to encourage more rural young people to get involved and understand how YFC can help combat feelings or rural isolation through the YFC varied programme

of activities.

C/14/117 CW confirmed that NFYFC would be using the hashtag #ruralplus. We also have the support from TAMA, FCN and YoungMinds. CW is looking for some case studies of people willing to share their stories about rural isolation and encouraged members to get in touch with her.

C/14/118 CW called upon Joy Davenport (Somerset) to explain to members how they had hosted an evening. JD noted that she had a personal health experience and had decided to hold a special charity evening at which they supported Brainwave, and MIND reps that had come along to talk to the members. She noted that several members had opened up and spoken of their problems and this has now helped the members to understand each other more and know what each member is going through.

C/14/119 Gareth Laking thanked CW for making Rural+ her campaign for the year and has also had personal experiences in his club and will fully support the campaign.

C/14/120 JH thanked CW for her presentation and has a lot of respect for the campaign and hopes that members will give her their full support.

C/14/121 **15.2 AGM Motions** – CW noted that she would shortly be approaching council members who wish to propose and second motions at the AGM and if anyone is interested to let her know. CW noted that the deadline for Motions at the AGM to be sent to JCE by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

C/14/122 Lizzie Hunt (Bedfordshire) noted that she has been asking for the AGM to be made shorter and much more slicker to encourage more members to attend. CW confirmed that the past and current officer teams will be meeting to look at the format for the AGM. LH noted that there were issues last year when members were entering for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy and being kept to an allocated time, and the member who was awarded the trophy was actually over time.

C/14/123 15.3 RABI Anniversary – CW noted that she was supporting the 'Booze Free February' campaign raising money for RABI and referred members to the 'just giving' page should they wish to donate to the charity.

C/14/124 **15.3 Council Dress Code** – CW thanked council for supporting the smart dress code for council meetings, and asked steering group members not to take alcohol into any future meetings.

C/14/125 **15.4** CW invited Linda Watts (Hertfordshire) to explain her Phoenix Card stall at the back of the meeting room. LW noted that she was raising funds along with Hertfordshire YFC for Otilie Quince. Otilie was the guest speaker at Hertfordshire Young Farmers AGM last year, and was an inspiration to us all. She is the fastest female transplant cyclist in the world and has broken several world records. She is at present the British, European and world cycling champion in both the 5k timed trial and also the 20k road race. She has jumped a lot of hurdles and is doing well but has no funding.

C/14/126 Tracy Knowles (Cornwall) invited all members to attend the Chairman's Ball on the 16<sup>th</sup> August at The Eden Project, numbers will be minimum 350 and max 600. Cost of the tickets will be £35.00 each.

C/14/127 **Flood Support for Somerset Farmers** - CW noted that there would be a collection around council towards the Somerset Flood Support Fund. Joy Davenport thanked members for all their support during a very difficult time in the county.

C/14/128 **Team Radio 1** – Lynsey Martin (Kent) encouraged members to listen to the Radio 1 team reporting on Youth in Agriculture and they have been showing an interest in the Agrichat.

C/14/129 CW noted that Gareth Laking is taking part in the London Marathon raising money for BRAKE and asked members to support his 'just giving' site.

C/14/130 With no further business CW thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 2.10pm.

Signed :..... Dated:.....

Claire Worden – Chairman of Council









