

**Minutes of the meeting of Council held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 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.

*CW appointed Diane Coles & Alethea Snelling as Tellers for the meeting.*

	Actioned By
<p>C/14/131 <b>1. Chairman's welcome</b> – CW welcomed members to the meeting and noted what a busy time of the year it was for the membership. CW noted that there has been some good publicity and coverage on social media and since the last meeting there had been a successful annual convention attended by over 5,000 members and was one of the best conventions for many years. CW took the opportunity to thank Robert Blezard personally and all the staff and events team for all the hard work which was put into the convention.</p> <p>C/14/132 CW welcomed members of the Youth Forum who has met as a steering group during council weekend for the first time. CW was pleased to see how well the Youth Forum members and listened and contributed to the business of the steering groups.</p> <p>C/14/133 CW welcomed the exchangees; Maria (Switzerland), Gunver (Norway), John (Northern Ireland), Lisa-Marie (Germany), and Breagh &amp; Casie from (Canada).</p> <p>C/14/134 CW introduced Glyn Smith (HOPS Manager) to the meeting and noted that Glyn would be available to speak to any council members who were interested to learn about the new projects HOPS were launching in respect of an apprenticeship scheme.</p> <p>C/14/135 <b>2. Apologies for absence</b> were recorded in the attendance book.</p> <p>C/14/136 <b>3. Diary Update Chairperson, Vice Chairmen &amp; Chief Officer</b> – CW noted the diary update (tabled) which covered the events attended by the officer team and James Eckley. CW thanked the membership for inviting them to the events and looked forward to attending future events whenever they can.</p> <p>C/14/137 <b>4. To Confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b> (paper no 036-14-A refers) – Minutes of the meeting were proposed by: Joy Davenport (Somerset), and seconded by: Nicola Chegwiddden (Cornwall), and duly signed by Claire Worden.</p> <p>C/14/138 <b>5. Matters Arising from those Minutes</b></p> <p>C/14/139 <b>5.1 Meirionnydd FYFC – Council Members Fares Pool</b> – CW informed council that she has had correspondence from them, and unfortunately she could not make their last evening meeting. CW believes that we are now in a better place and hope that when the next invoice for Fares Pool is sent it will be paid by the next meeting. Should there be further meetings Hannah Talbot has offered to attend these.</p> <p>C/14/140 <b>6. To receive any relevant correspondence</b> – CW read out a letter from Eunice Finney on behalf of the Land Army Memorial Statue which is to be placed at the Staffordshire Memorial Arboretum on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. A small clay version of the statute was available to view at the council meeting, and the Land Army committee would like to appeal for financial support from YFC member to help maintain the memorial in Staffordshire. The</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CW</p>

link to donate is: <http://www.womenslandarmytribute.co.uk/donations/>

c/14/141 CW invited Sioned Davies (SD) to give the report for the Youth Forum:

**7. To receive and adopt the report of the Youth Forum Steering Group** – Sioned Davies reported for council to note: SD noted that the NCVYS/Woodcraft Folk Conf was attended by forum and PD members, focusing on participation and that the Discover AGCO event was attended by youth forum members to promote YFC. SD noted that the ‘Watch that cowpat’ Field to Fork game will be piloted at the CLA Game Fair 18-20<sup>th</sup> July (Picture of game) – if the pilot is successful we will be seeking further funding to take the project forward. SD noted that the forum have now raised £37.18 through the Easy Fundraising tool and have set a target of £80 by October, and that the forum members will be attending competitions day to speak to the new intake of forum members competing in the Junior Member of the Year competition.

c/14/142 SD asked council to approve: that the forum would like to submit motions to the British Youth Council on *‘the awareness of mental health issues in rurally isolated areas in support of the Rural+ campaign’*. Council voted and this motion was approved by council.

c/14/143 SD asked council to approve that the forum would like to submit a second Motion *‘opposing the suggestion of a raised driving age and curfew on driving hours for young people’*. Gareth Laking noted that it was a very good idea and noted that perhaps the forum members could look at further suggestions on how to increase safety. SD confirmed that they had intended to go back to Milly’s Drive It Home Campaign proposals and to do some more research. Cath Sykes confirmed that the Motion had to be submitted on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Julia Pointon noted that there were two elements to the Bill and we need to be cautious. Glyn Smith noted that Defra are looking for opportunities to bring in 16 – 18 year olds to encourage them to work in rural jobs which would mean working late hours. SD noted that she believes the curfew would only apply to social hours driving. After a lengthy discussion council voted and agreed that the Youth Forum should do some more research.

c/14/144 SD asked council to approve their third Motion, *‘to make it mandatory that all primary school children have a farm visit supported by learning resources to increase F2F education in schools’*. Council voted and approved this Motion.

c/14/145 SD asked council to approve *‘the idea that an under-18 Ski trip in February 2016 has been researched and we would like to progress this with the travel programme’*. Council voted and approved this proposal.

c/14/146 SD asked council to approved that the forum would like to continue to meet at council in June in order to interact with council members, the October meeting will take place at Stoneleigh in the weeks before council and the February meeting will be included in the residential team building weekend and that on reflection, the youth forum would like to consider having the meeting at the next Council weekend. CW noted that council would welcome the Youth Forum to any of their weekend meetings and that this did not need to be approved; they will leave it up to the forum members to decide which meetings they would like to join. CW thanked SD for her report.

c/14/147 CW invited Nicola Chegwidden (NC) to give the report from the PD Steering Group:

**8. To receive and adopt the report of the Personal Development Steering Group**

NC asked council to approve that the 2015 travel trips will remain the same as 2014. Council voted and approved these trips.

NC asked council to approve that the group travel trip in 2015 will be to India. Council voted and approved this trip.

NC asked council to approve that PD will investigate the under-18 trip for 2016 with some input from the Youth Forum. Council voted approved this action.

NC noted that the PD steering group reviewed the youth work budget and will look into allocation of funds for

the issue based work, and that instead of changing the steering group name the group will come up with a strap-line to explain it. NC also noted that James Eckley had explained the development training proposal to the steering group. The steering group discussed development training and the group are fully supportive of these proposals. NC asked council to note that the 'Transporting YFC members' document has been undated can now be found in the Source, and that every month the PD steering group is contributing to the Buzz providing Top Tips for club officers. NC asked members to promote this section to their members.

NC noted that the Youth Social Action programme has had to date 4 project applications involving approximately 60 members. Further information on how your club can get involved will be produced shortly. NC noted that the PD members will continue to promote Rural+, and will also resources to complement the policies which will be member friendly. The group will also support the I-Rights manifesto for young people. The group will have a stand at competitions day with activities to promote the Drive it Home competition, and promote The Source and YFC Travel.

NC noted that the group recognises that they need better promotion of YFC Travel and travel presentations/member interviews will be put on the website prior to selection day which takes place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December venue to be confirmed. NC also welcomed the YFC travel exchanges and hope they have a wonderful time.

NC noted to council that the group have purchased a set of 'Beer Goggles' which are available for clubs to use to try and promote a safer drinking culture in YFC.

CW thanked NC for her report and invited David Maidment (DM) to give the report of the CEM Steering Group

### 9. To receive and adopt the report of the Communications Events & Marketing (CEM) Steering Group

**(incorporating fundraising)** – DM asked council to approve that the deadline for discounted pre-booked packages will remain six weeks, prior to the event, but the deadline date for members to be on the database to be able to buy wristbands on the day at Annual Convention will change to four weeks before the event. Council voted and approved this change.

DM noted that the Board of Management would like to recommend to council an increase of £5 increase to the three-day package for Annual Convention 2015 and 2016 and that this increase is fixed for 2 years, and that the on-the-door one-day wristband package to be reduced to £34.50 for members and £37 for Associate Members to encourage more people to buy tickets. DM showed council the following table to explain the suggested increases:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	-	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	-
		<b>Members 18 to 26 years</b>	<b>Variance</b>		<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Advanced, discounted sales</b>	£62.00	<b>£67.00</b>	£5.00	£67.00	<b>£72.00</b>	£5.00
	£53.00	<b>£57.50</b>	£4.50	£58.00	<b>£62.50</b>	£4.50
	£28.50	<b>£32.50</b>	£4.00	£33.50	<b>£37.50</b>	£4.00
<b>On the day sales</b>	£76.00	<b>£81.00</b>	£5.00	£81.00	<b>£86.00</b>	£5.00
	£64.00	<b>£69.00</b>	£5.00	£69.00	<b>£74.00</b>	£5.00
	£36.00	<b>£34.50</b>	-£1.50	£41.00	<b>£37.00</b>	-£4.00

Council voted and approved the increase in package prices.

DM noted to council that the group are shaping the programme for the YFC Ski trip and tickets are on sale at [www.nfyfc.org.uk/yfctravel/yfcski](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/yfctravel/yfcski), they will be running an online fancy dress poll for the YFC Ski trip, which will be advertised on the Ski event page. Retro, Beach theme, or Tweed.

DM informed council that the Annual Convention survey revealed that 99% rated the event as good/excellent and 99% would recommend the weekend and the group has used the feedback to help plan next year's event – including discussions around popularity of DJs and bands. Chris Stark and Scott Mills were the most popular act during the weekend. DM congratulated Steve Fell from Broughton YFC, Cumbria and Lucy Corner from Elwick YFC in County Durham, who are our Convention survey winners. They will win a 3-day package to Convention 2015, courtesy of HOPS. DM thanked Glyn Smith for funding the prizes. DM also noted that following feedback from the survey they are looking into the development of a Convention App, and the group are also looking into acts for Annual Convention 2015 – based on feedback from members. DM confirmed that the next Annual Convention will be in Torquay on 24-26 April 2015.

Council discussed the proposed themes for annual convention 2015 based around the family and friends theme. CEM had suggested: Through the Decades, Grandparents and Famous Families. Sam Dilcock didn't think that members would get the theme 'Grandparents'. HT explained that next year is the year of the European Family and family would be the theme and branding for next year. Gareth Laking said that in his area the most popular themes are Minions and Smurfs. Lynsey Martin noted that there may be a problem with yellow paint used for The Simpsons as part of famous families. CW asked council to defer the decision to the end of the meeting to allow members to consider the themes and would bring this up under any other business.

C/14/148 CW thanked DM for his report and invited David Hamer (DH) to give the report of the Competitions Steering Group.

**C/14/149 10. To receive and adopt the report of the Competitions Steering Group –**

DH asked council to approve that from the start of the 2014-15 competition year fines for withdrawal at a national final is increased from £25 to £50 for withdrawing within 2 weeks and from £40 to £100 within 48 hours of the competition. Kate Miles noted that Wales YFC is looking to increase their fines procedure on certain competitions where there are costs involved. DH is in favour of fining members but does not want to deter them from taking part. James Chapman understood why the competitions group needed to fine members but noted that sometimes there are genuine reasons why members cannot take part.

Sam Dilcock suggested that council members needed time to discuss this change and for members to discuss if an appeals process is needed.

Hannah Talbot suggested that there should be a fines procedure on the £100 fine, but consideration should be given to whether this applies to an individual or a group of members, as a £100 fine for one member doing floral is a lot of money to find.

Faith Cosgrove stressed the importance to encourage members not to drop out of competitions at the last minute and the need to put in scratch teams, messing up numbers and making more work for the comps, officers and staff teams.

Council voted and agreed to take this back to their members and to make a decision at the October council meeting.

DH asked council to approve that Parental consent forms are to be submitted to NFYFC office 10 working days prior to national final instead of 5 days. Council voted and approved this change.

ALL

DH asked council to approve that the Rules for 2014-15 as previously circulated, should include the following changes: Bunting 21 and under to be replaced by a fashion garment make and model, and Double Area Entry for Painted Canvas, Fashion and Garden Sculpture. Council voted and approved these changes.

DH noted to council that the Photography competition 2013 winning entries will be now uploaded as a downloadable academic calendar instead of producing note lets. DH noted that the Cube exhibit to be held at Tenbury Show, Worcestershire on 2<sup>nd</sup> August alongside the finals of the Tug of War. DH also noted that the Royal Astronomical Society is funding 20 projects ranging from £50,000 to £100,000 to celebrate 200 years in 2020. Would like to seek further information about this opportunity and would like to potentially submit a bid.

DH noted that NODA are to be used to judge the Performing Arts Pantomime in 2015. DH confirmed that Darts to be held as a fun competition at the Annual Convention 2015, and to encourage members to have a go and play darts.

DH confirmed that there will be a 'Competitions Working Party Meeting' to be held at Stoneleigh on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2014 to discuss overall theme and 2015-16 programme, anyone interested can attend and bring their ideas.

DH stressed that 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014-15 membership cards will be required for all NFYFC finals held after the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, and asked council members to take this back to their members. This will affect the Malvern Cookery and Floral competitions.

DH noted that over the next month the group will be seeking the views of the members about the Tug of War and whether we should follow the governing body's way of holding competitions. This would mean that the top 4 would go through to a knock out final. Also teams would be able to substitute one person who is the same weight or lighter to the member coming out of the team this could be due to injury. DH asked members to go back to him with their thoughts within 1 month of the council meeting at this is now urgent. Council also discussed the use of type of boots for Tug of War and DH stressed that it is possible to adapt your own boots. There appears to be confusion as to what boots can be worn.

James Hutchings noted to council that the competitions during annual convention were all very good, but he just wanted to mention that the noise level during the choir competitions was not good and maybe in future the bar could be closed during the competition. DH thanked JH for his comments and confirmed that it had been noted and if the members wanted a similar competition in the future that it may be possible to hold it in the theatre.

ALL

James Eckley noted that for a first attempt it was good, and the County Federations gave good support, however the Empress Ballroom acoustics did not match the Choir performances which were much quieter than expected. The venue for the final of this competition will be considered if this competition features in the programme again.. Sioned Davies noted that the comperes were great.

c/14/150CW thanked DH for his report and invited Russell Carrington (RC) to give the report from the AGRI Steering Committee

**11. To receive and adopt the report of the AGRI Steering Group** – RC asked council to approve the proposed Fracking Statement which the group which to publish: *"We recognise that Fracking has several areas of concern for agricultural and rural communities – not least water contamination. We believe more research is needed to investigate safer technology and would prefer to see more development of renewable energy systems. We must ensure that our future energy needs are met without causing irreversible damage to the environment, which we rely upon for our livelihoods."*

Council discussed at length the statement and agreed the statement below with some amendments to the wording:

***“We recognise that Fracking has several areas of concern for agricultural and rural communities – not least water contamination. We believe more research is needed to investigate the technology. We must ensure that our future energy needs are met without causing irreversible damage to the environment, which we rely upon for our members’ livelihoods.”***

RC noted that they have now launched a new #YFCagri Newsletter which has been well received. RC encouraged members to spread the word and use the Newsletter to promote AGRI events to the membership.

RC noted that AGRI will be launching a Facebook group for the Steering Group during the next week, and following a review may extend to a second group to involve County Agri links people.

RC noted that the group will be supporting the new HOPS apprenticeships programme that John Hardman presented to them at their meeting on Saturday.

RC noted that the group have had some positive coverage from CEJA activities in the past few months and are looking to attend several events during the remainder of this year, they would like to encourage new members to go along and experience what CEJA is all about. RC noted that they also looking for a new sponsor for CEJA activities for next year.

RC confirmed that James Hutchinson (Wiltshire FYFC), had been elected as the new NFU representative, he will be deputised by Paul Hartley, (Norfolk FYFC).

RC noted that the group have now adopted the area reporting format from the Personal Development Steering Group and are finding this to be working well.

RC noted that the group have agreed to work much closer with county AGRI links people, and to encourage better lines of communication. They will invite all County AGRI links people to the Steering Group meetings as observers.

RC noted that the group are reviewing the AGRI Forum and considering a new format – potentially to include a formal dinner at which they can invite guests and sponsors. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting in October.

RC noted that the matching service study has been concluded, and a press release will go out acknowledging the need for funding.

RC confirmed that a bid has been submitted to DEFRA for training and events.

RC noted that the group have agreed to support the Oxford Real Farming Conference with a potential YFC debate/discussion to take place.

c/14/151 CW thanked RC for his report and invited Frank Chester (FC) to give the report from the Board of Management

**12. To receive and adopt the report of the Board of Management** – FC asked council to approve the appointment of Mr Gordon Gatwood as an independent member of the Board of Management. FC noted that Gordon has a wealth of experience in governance and has also been helping NFYFC with some interviews. James Chapman noted that he believes Gordon will be a massive asset to NFYFC. FC noted that if approved today Gordon is available to join the board in October. Council voted and approved this role.

ALL

FC noted that the board have now approved the budget for the annual convention 2015 in Torquay and have made their recommendations to the CEM Steering group for an increase in package prices, which you the council have approved today.

FC noted that the Officer team are actively compiling a list of potential candidates for the role of NFYFC President Elect, and will be meeting with the President to discuss his role going forward.

FC noted that from the 9<sup>th</sup> April board meeting they did approve the agenda for the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May in Blackpool. FC commented on how well the AGM had gone and the new format was well received by the members, and congratulated Poul Christensen on his chairing of the proceedings.

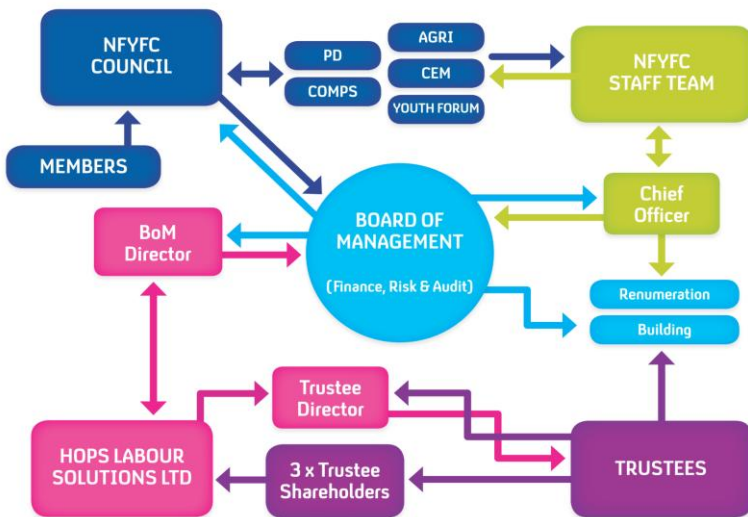
FC noted that the board are currently advertising for two further members on the board. One Independent member with financial expertise, and also an Hon. Treasurer to replace Mr John Hardman who has completed his second term of office. FC noted that the board will be discussing succession planning to ensure that terms of office on the board do not all end at the same time.

FC noted that the board continues to work with the officer team in discussions with Meririonnydd YFC to resolve the issue of outstanding Fares Pool monies and hope that this will be resolved very soon.

FC noted that following a consultation period the board is looking at the current 'Drugs & Alcohol Policy with Guidance for County Federations' document and hopes to be able to approve this at their August board meeting.

FC noted that the board will be looking at a Development Plan with the new Head of Development & Marketing officer at their next board meeting in August.

FC tabled the following draft diagram to show council members the roles and responsibilities and lines of communication between members, council, the board, trustees, and the steering groups. CW noted that she wanted to put her ideas on papers to help the membership, and this was only draft and could be updated. Council would like to see a tab bar across the top showing the Members. This diagram will be updated and circulated with the October council packs.



Sam Dilcock noted that the members want to have their say and they want transparency, they will have their say

if they are not happy. CW asked council to let her have any other comments on the diagram.

Lionel Hill suggested that HOPS have a 5 minute slot at the next council meeting to update the members of the NFYFC Council and to improve the understanding of HOPS and its work and improve the links with the membership. CW agreed.

FC noted that the board has looked at the Matching Service Reports and has agreed that the AGRI Officer Jo Wyles should work on an appropriate press release which may result in a sponsor being found for this project.

ALL

FC noted that the board wished to thank James Eckley, Robert Bleazard, the staff team, and all volunteers for their hard work and effort in delivering a successful annual convention 2014.

FC presented the following finance slides on behalf of John Hardman.

The second meeting of the risk and audit sub-committee has met and terms of reference and frequency of meetings have been agreed.

The 1/2 year audited accounts are currently being worked on and will be ready for the August BOM meeting.

NFYFC's Finance team have produced a revised budget/ forecast for 2014 taking in consideration the levy rise, the success of convention, salary savings, grants & sponsorship received and unbudgeted income resulting in a reduction of projected loss from £208k to £92k as it stands today. This sum may increase as the year progresses.

NFYFC have invested in high speed internet to improve office efficiency with the increased reliance of internet by both HOPS and NFYFC.

FC noted that JH had sent his apologies for today's meeting and he thanked John for all his hard work and time in the role of NFYFC Treasurer.

C/14/152 13. CW confirmed the date of the next council meeting to be **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014**, at the Quality Hotel.

#### C/14/153 **14. Any Other relevant business**

C/14/154 **14. 1** James Chapman announced to council that Helen & Martyn Williams were expecting their first child. Helen is a past Chairman of Council.

#### C/14/155 **14.2 Annual Convention Fancy Dress Themes 2015**

C/14/156 After a lengthy discussion council agreed to poll the membership on the following themes:

C/14/157 1) Through The Decades, 2) Through The Generations, and 3) Famous Families.

C/14/158 **14.3** Sioned Davies noted that Jodie Green would shortly be returning to NFYFC following maternity leave and would then be looking after the Youth Forum. SD wanted to thank Cath Sykes for all her hard work and help with the Youth Forum and presented Cath with some flowers.

ALL

C/14/159 **14.4** Kate Miles invited members to the Royal Welsh Show 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July and to visit the YPV which has some really good acts performing including Gareth Gates.

C/14/160 **14.5** Ben Cavill encouraged council and members to attend 'Cornish Claire's Chairman's Ball' on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the Eden Project – Tickets cost £35.00 and this includes entry into the Eden Project on the Sunday. Booking form and detail were on display at the council meeting. BC noted that the YHA were offering good rates for camping over the weekend.

ALL

C/14/161 **14.6** Toby France invited members to the Warwickshire FYFC Royal Show Madness night, at Abbey Hall



Farm courtesy of The Barnes Family, which was taking place on the Saturday evening of Competition Day 5<sup>th</sup> July, DJ Chris Stark. CW noted that Staffordshire FYFC was having a Chairman's Ball at the showground on the Saturday night and member were invited to attend this event as well.

C/14/162 **14.7** CW reminded council that Glyn Smith HOPS Manager was available after the meeting to talk to any members interested to learn more about HOPS Labour Solutions Ltd.

C/14/163 **15. Closing remarks**

C/14/131 With no further business CW thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 12:59pm

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

Claire Worden – Chairman of Council