



**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014,  
at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry CV5 9BA**

**Present:** Miss Claire Worden (Chair of Council), Miss Hannah Talbot (Vice Chair of Council), Mr Chris Manley (Vice Chair 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 Jon & Anne Sarsfield as Tellers for the meeting.*

	Actioned By
<p>C/14/164 <b>1. Chairman's welcome</b> – CW welcomed members to the meeting and noted how busy all the YFC clubs have been. CW noted that there has been some fantastic communication between NFYFC, counties and clubs which is growing from strength to strength, and this showed yesterday in the steering group meetings.</p> <p>C/14/165 CW called for a moment of reflection and informed council that Mr John Hearth CBE, Life Vice President of NFYFC and former Chair of the Management Committee in the early 1990's had sadly died. CW confirmed that JCE has sent a letter of condolence to John's family.</p> <p>C/14/166 CW informed council that Mrs Di Chennells a lifelong supporter of NFYFC and especially the Eastern Area (former Area President) has suffered a family bereavement. CW noted that our thoughts are with Di and her family.</p> <p>C/14/167 CW informed council that Miranda McGinn, Board of Management Wales Representative had suffered a close family bereavement, and council and board of management send their condolences to Miranda and her family.</p> <p>C/14/168 CW congratulated Ed Ford (Essex FYFC) on his award as 'Farmers Guardian <i>Farming Hero</i>' for his good work done with the Foragaid Appeal to help Somerset farmers overcome the terrible flooding earlier in the year.</p> <p>C/14/169 CW sent congratulations to Milly Wastie on being awarded the most 'Aspirational Women' Award and well done to Milly.</p> <p>C/14/170 CW confirmed that Guernsey YFC are now established and formally affiliated to NFYFC. South West Area is excited at the prospect of including Guernsey members in its planned activities in 2015.</p> <p>C/14/171 CW was pleased to note that the Isle of Wight YFC are re-establishing and thanks go to Hampshire FYFC for supporting the new officers to establish this club.</p> <p>C/14/172 CW noted that Jersey YFC appear on facebook to be up and running. Hannah Talbot has Jersey in her sights and hopes to be able to re-establish links on a formal basis in the future. JCE has written to the club.</p> <p>C/14/173 CW asked all in attendance to stand and show their new 2014/2015 Membership cards. CW noted that all council members including elected representatives and members of co options should by now be in possession of a 2014/15 membership card. CW encouraged all members to make sure that they had their membership cards before the next meeting of Council in February.</p> <p>C/14/174 <b>2. Apologies for absence</b> were recorded in the attendance book.</p> <p>C/14/175 <b>3. Diary Update Chairperson, Vice Chairmen &amp; Chief Officer</b> – CW drew council's attention to the officers diary update tabled on the day, and highlighted that James Eckley had been asked to judge at the Farmers Guardian 'Agricultural Student of the Year' Award. Chris Manley had attended with a group of members the St. Georges House Consultation at Windsor Castle; Hannah Talbot had attended The Royal Welsh Show and Northern Area AGM. CW was privileged to be asked to attend the NFU Mutual National Crime Fighters Awards, looking at rural crime and initiatives. CW also thanked McDonalds for inviting her as their guest at The Farmers Weekly Awards evening.</p>	

C/14/176 **4. To Confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014** – CW asked Council if they were happy that she signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Council were all in agreement and the minutes of the meeting were proposed by: Joy Davenport (Somerset), and seconded by: Nicola Chegwiddden (Cornwall), and duly signed by Claire Worden.

C/14/177 **5. Matters Arising from those Minutes** - None raised.

C/14/178 **6. To receive any relevant correspondence**

C/14/179 **6.1** CW read out a letter from Lord Plumb explaining the role of 'The Henry Plumb Foundation', and appealing for young entrepreneurs to apply for a grant from the foundation, and to note how disappointed he was that more young farmers had not taken up this opportunity of a grant. CW noted that Aims & Objectives for the Foundation are on The Henry Plumb Foundation website and CW encouraged council to take this back to their members. <http://www.thehenryplumbfoundation.org.uk/>

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**7.. To receive and adopt the report of the AGRI Steering Group**

CW invited Russell Carrington to deliver his report from the AGRI Steering Group;

C/14/180 RC noted that their meeting was long but productive and there was nothing to approve only to note:

RC noted that Kuhn Machinery have agreed a sponsorship deal with the steering group for the next 12 months and the group are very excited about this sponsorship.

RC noted that a guest speaker from Nuffield spoke to the steering group and explained the opportunities for scholarships. Scholars are available as speakers for club evenings/meetings.

RC noted that following the successful St Georges House consultation we will be taking the actions forward and bringing a proposal to council in February. RC noted that they will be looking at the Matching Service and careers programme and Caroline Trude will be heading up the work plan in February 2015.

RC noted that efforts with CEJA are bringing benefits to young farmers and gaining momentum. Members have been involved in a number of events. A press release will be issued at the end of the month. Thanks to our sponsors Mole Valley farmers and HOPS Labour Solutions.

RC noted that the committee will be doing a petition to Defra calling for capital support for young farmers.

RC noted that Wales FYFC will be hosting a Rural Affairs Conference on December 13<sup>th</sup> and encouraged members to attend.

RC noted that the committee have reviewed plans for the AGRI forum which are in progress. It will take place on the Saturday afternoon, of Annual Convention and will be titled "What's your future in farming?"

RC noted that the committee continue to encourage each county to nominate a local AGRI links ambassadors. This will improve the communication channels with the AGRI group and grass-root members.

RC noted that the monthly AGRI Newsletters are being well received.

RC noted that as this was his last presentation, it had been a great year and the committee had got a lot done with the help of Jo Wyles and a strong team. He noted that the group were in a great place for 2015 and he wished them all good luck for the year ahead.

CW thanked RC for his report and invited David Hamer to give the report of the Competitions Steering Group.

## **8. To receive and adopt the report of the Competitions Steering Group**

c/14/181 DH asked council to approve the following items:

DH asked council to approve that the fines for withdrawal from competitions are to remain the same. They are as follows: Withdrawal within 2 weeks of the competition: £25, withdrawal within 48 hours £40. This only applies to competitions stated in the general rules. JH noted that the other option considered was to increase the fines to £100. Council voted and approved that the fines should remain the same.

### **Tug of War:**

DH asked council to approve the following: that Gwent Federation will be banned from taking part in the tug of war finals for the 2014/2015 membership year. Various individuals in the male and female competitions will also be banned.

DH outlined the initial problems with the competitions and explained that there were members in the Gwent Men & Ladies teams who had subsequently pulled for Herefordshire and the rules state that you can only pull for one team. Faith Cosgrove explained that the individual members knew that they were cheating because they had used their middle names when submitting the forms for the Gwent team. Faith noted that the consequence of these teams cheating had meant that Pembrokeshire who came 3<sup>rd</sup> could not go through to the final. It was felt that this was not in the spirit of YFC. It was emphasised that the staff for both teams were not to blame.

Council discussed the option of banning the members who had cheated from all future competitions; it was generally felt that this was too harsh. After discussions and amendments to initial proposals had taken place, the Council approved the following motions:-

***“That the Gwent & Herefordshire Federations would receive a written warning letter with reference to the Tug of War Competitions Year for 2014/2015”. Votes for 36, Votes Against 0, and 3 Abstentions.***

***“That the members of the Gwent Federation Men’s and Ladies Tug of War teams (16 individuals) will receive a ban from the NFYFC Tug of War Competition 2014/2015”. Votes for 41, Votes against 0 and 1 Abstention.***

DH asked council to approve that the new Tug of War rules will be enforced in the 2014/2015 competitions year to fall in line with Tug of War Association rules. Council voted and this proposal was approved with 1 Abstention.

DH asked council to approve that the theme for 15/16 year will be “Tomorrows World” - Council voted all in favour of this theme. *This proposal was approved.*

DH noted that the 2015 programme will be circulated to counties shortly and also that a downloadable calendar incorporating the photos from the 2013 competition will be uploaded shortly on the NFYFC website.

DH noted that James Barbour a past member is to donate a 'Best Speaker' trophy for the senior speaking competition held at competitions day, and DH wished to personally thank James for providing this trophy.

DH noted that the rules for the debating comp for 15/16 have been amended to fall in line with the MACE, English Speaking Union. DH noted that this will provide members with something which they can put onto their CV and will look good in industry.

DH confirmed that in the next Junior Reading Competition, members will be permitted to use a tablet or similar device during the reading competition.

DH confirmed that the English Winter Fair Competitions will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November at Staffordshire Showground, and there will be a stock-judgers supper held on the Saturday evening. Tickets are available from NFYFC priced at £10.00 each supported by EBLEX.

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DH noted that in the 2015/201616 competitions programme, it has been agreed that the gadget case has been replaced with a sugar craft cake topper competition, and the farm safety competition is now a live radio show, the dragons den is now a weather vane, and it is hoped that the winning vain will be displayed on the roof of the YFC Centre at Stoneleigh Park.

A discussion is to take place with the National Association of Ploughmen this is to encourage our members to take part in their ploughing classes throughout the country and for NFYFC to possibly help publicise these events through the website. Further discussions will be held.

DH finally noted that after consultation, pigs will remain in the stockman of the year and live and carcass judging competitions.

CW thanked DH for his report and invited David Maidment to give his report from the Communications Events and Marketing Steering Group.

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

c/14/182 DM asked council to approve the following items:

That the name of the steering group from Communication, Events and Marketing (CEM) to "**Events and Marketing** Steering Group". Council voted and this proposal was carried with 1 Abstention.

DM asked council to note that the committee continue to advertise the ski trip, which takes place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015. Number of bookings as of today's meeting are 278, and that the fancy dress theme will be Retro for the ski trip.

DM noted that the steering group will continue to develop the annual convention programme of entertainment of 2015. There will be a foam party on the Sunday evening which will be club shirt night, Friday remain black tie and Saturday fancy dress. .

DM noted that due to large budget cuts, Massey Fergusson will no longer be the main sponsors of Annual Convention 2015. The fundraising department will be looking into new sponsorship for the event.

DM noted that following the website poll for the annual convention fancy dress the theme will be 'Through The Decades'.

DM noted that there is an affinity deal available for members to attend Cheltenham races in November. This is available under the NFYFC website behind the log in.

DM noted that the committee will be running a car sticker slogan competition for the yfc club shop product shortly. Our current car stickers have been around now for many years.

DM noted that the steering group are working with the NFYFC marketing team to develop and refresh the website and look into social media forum operated through Twitter in the form of a 'YFC hour', exact name to be confirmed.

DM noted that the marketing team are working on an annual convention app to be available to use in 2015.

DM noted that the committee would like to encourage all counties, clubs and areas to embrace social media.

DM noted that the future annual convention dates are as follows:

2016: Blackpool, 6 - 8<sup>TH</sup> of May, 2017: Torquay 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 2018: Blackpool 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May

CW thanked DM for his report and invited Nicola Chegwiddden to present the report from the Personal Development Steering Group:

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

c/14/183 NC asked council to note the following items:

NC confirmed that the group had a presentation from DJ and Blessing from NCVYS regarding the Youth Social Action Fund and the Youth Social Action Fund has had a good uptake and we encourage clubs to apply, full details are available from Cath Sykes on 02476 857220 or [cath.sykes@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:cath.sykes@nfyfc.org.uk)

NC noted that the group have reviewed the Youth Work and Training budget.

NC confirmed that there will be a Cash Management course for Club Treasurers which will take place in Somerset on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. This will be then be turned into a Curve module.

NC noted that the group are developing further Curve modules which will include social media, leadership and club programming.

NC noted that County Chairs and Vices are being invited to a County Chair's day entitled 'Kick Start Your Year' on the 7<sup>th</sup> December here at The Quality Hotel, Allesley, Coventry, rsvp to: Cath Sykes.

NC confirmed that the NFYFC Selection Day is being held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, again here at The Quality Hotel, full details are on the website and available from Emily Johnson, 02476 857218 or [emily.johnson@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:emily.johnson@nfyfc.org.uk).

NC noted that a Leadership Course for Steering group Chairs vices and Area Chairs will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015, venue to be confirmed.

NC noted that the group would like to strengthen the links with AGRI regarding the Training offered to YFC members.

NC noted that the group would like to ask the Board of Management to research the option of having a more interactive way of having The Source on the website i.e. not PDF.

NC noted that the group intended to write to members of the 'Trainers Forum' to undertake an evaluation of The Curve and future forum meetings.

NC noted that the group have reviewed the 'Certificates of Achievement' and will be working with Marketing to develop new certificates.

NC noted that PD will look at different ways to distribute condoms at the Annual Convention and will enquire about having portable STI testing kits available, and a suitable location will be found the venue for testing.

NC noted that PD would like to work with NatWest at the Annual Convention to promote training and YFC travel.

NC noted that hard copies of 'The Source' are now available to buy through club supplies at £18 per copy + postage, and more copies are going to be printed.

NC noted that the group are looking at reproducing the Child Protection cards for Club Officers.

NC noted that the group will hold two twitter sessions on YFC Travel with a Q&A session.

NC noted that we will be offering at YFC Selection Day an optional lunch for a £5 charge and membership cards will need to be shown.

NC noted that Top tips for Club Exchanges will be developed and included in 'The Source' and promoted in 'The Buzz'.

NC noted that PD will support Berkshire FYFC in the development of the new 'Club Efficiency Award scheme' with the view to sharing with other County Federations and this will be ready for September 2015.

CW thanked NC for her report and invited Sioned Davies to present the report from the Youth Forum Steering Group.

## **11. To receive and adopt the report of the Youth Forum Steering Group**

C/14/184 SD asked council to approve the following items:

SD asked council to approve that the forum area representatives should have the opportunity to serve two years to match the time offered to the members on the forum that have gained a place via the JMOTY process. This was debated at the end of the Steering Group report.

SD noted that Forum members attended the Competitions day in July to speak to the new cohort of forum members.

SD noted that the Youth Forum is reviewing their 'have your say' document to support county youth forums.

SD noted that the forum will be producing a '*Guidance on Hosting a Junior Area Weekend*' in order to increase the value of the membership card for junior members

SD noted that the forum have now raised £70.06 through the 'Easy Fundraising cash back' website. SD noted that they would have liked to have raised their £80.00 target but encouraged everyone to support the Youth Forum.

SD noted that the forum would like to thank 'AGCO Parts' for their sponsorship of the forum in 2014, they had enjoyed working with them.

SD noted that the forum presented two motions to the British Youth Council Annual Council Meeting; including raising awareness of rural mental health issues, and raising the awareness of field to fork education within primary schools

SD noted that the 'Mental Health Motion' was passed at the ACM, and the 'Field to Fork Motion' will go to the BYC Board as there was insufficient time for this Motion to be debated.

SD noted that the forum have compiled a pack for the officer team of 2056/57 with instructions on discovering the 2012 capsule, and the re-burial on the 125th Anniversary of NFYFC.

SD noted that the forum piloted the 'Watch that Cowpat' field to fork game at the CLA game-fair which was an enjoyable event. The game has also been piloted at events both YFC and BYC throughout the country between July and October.

SD noted that the group looked at the evaluations for the 'Watch that Cowpat' game and decided to make a few changes including putting instructions on the reverse of the spinner board and adding fact and forfeit cards to the game. They are hoping to find a sponsor to support the changes and produce the final game.

SD noted that the youth forum is working with the Isle of Man YFC on the details of the February Youth Forum #ontourIOM2015.

SD noted that the forum would like to make contact with the Junior Agri Academy in Wales to see if they can do any joint work on projects like 'Field to Fork'.

SD noted that the forum is setting up a small working party to work with YFC travel and PGL on the U18 Ski Trip planned for February 2016.

SD noted that the Youth Forum has sat on the various steering groups this weekend, providing feedback where possible and have all enjoyed their time.

c/14/185 CW introduced David Clark who is the Deputy Chief Executive of the British Youth Council. CW noted that the Board of Management will be inviting council to approve David as an Independent Specialist on the board. DC addressed council and was looking forward to working with NFYFC's board of management. He highlighted the work of the BYC made up of 263 youth organisations, with each organisation having 5 member votes. DC noted that he was pleased to see the Motions being put forward by the Youth Forum including the Field to Fork, Rural Mental Health and Road Transport issues. CW thanked DC and highlighted the excellent response to the Youth Forum Cowpat Game and it was hoped that this will be developed further.

c/14/186 Georgie Morris noted that being a Youth Forum rep for one year isn't enough time and a two year term would give them more time in the role. James Eckley asked Council to consider a review of the Terms of Reference of all steering groups, and particularly the composition of the Youth Forum before the next round of meetings.

c/14/187 CW noted and Council agreed that the Youth forum Terms of Reference be reviewed at its next meeting, which is before the February meeting of Council. The Terms of Reference can then be put before Council and adopted if appropriate.

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c/14/188 CW thanked NC for her report and invited Sioned Davies to present the report from the Youth Forum Steering Group.

Council took a 10 min break.

c/14/189 CW resumed the meeting and introduced Sam Conway NFYFC Communications Officer, Maria Burke NFYFC Head of Marketing & Development. CW also welcomed Poul & Margaret Christensen.

c/14/190 CW invited Frank Chester to present the report from the Board of Management.

c/14/191 **12. To receive and adopt the report of the Board of Management.**

FC asked council to approve that Mr David Clark from the British Youth Council is appointed as an Independent Specialist on the Board of Management. Council voted and this appointment was approved with 1 Abstention.

FC noted to council that the board have been made aware of the YFC Clubs who are in default or closed and have not submitted their annual returns to the Charity Commission. James Eckley continues to assist Clubs and Counties and is working with the Charity Commissioners to resolve this.

FC noted that the board have agreed that NFYFC will host a County Chair/Vice Chair's Day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014, "Kick Start Your Year As County Chair" to be held at the Quality Hotel, Allesley.

FC noted that Mr Paul Glanvill, board representative for the South West and West Midland Areas has tendered his resignation. Council will be asked to vote on nominees for this Member Representative to the Bom later in today's meeting. The board wish to thank Paul for his contribution to the board business.

FC noted that the board have approved the adoption of the revised 'Drugs & Alcohol Policy with Guidance for County Federations', P&G 020, FC noted that this was approved at the board meeting in August 2014.

FC noted that the Holding Trustees, John Hardman and James Eckley continue to discuss options for the office accommodation for the NFYFC and in particular to secure a renewed lease for the current YFC Centre at Stoneleigh Park with the Agent to the Landlord and the board will keep council informed of any



developments.

FC noted that the board continue to work with Maria Burke & James Eckley on the draft development plan and will dedicate time at the December board meeting to look at this in more detail.

FC noted that the board continue to recruit a Hon Treasurer. FC thanked JH for his time on the board and for his time and effort in keeping the finances clear and in order. FC noted that JH has agreed to continue as acting Treasurer until a suitable replacement can be found as JH would like to do a proper handover of this role.

With no further questions from council, CW invited JH to give his finance report from the board;

JH noted that there is continued efficiency in YFC the Centre, and unspent budget has brought the projected 2014 trading deficit down considerably. JH noted that the staff work hard to try and get the best possibly costs ensure value for money.

JH noted that market trends have affected the return on the investment portfolio giving a projected unrealised loss of £30k rather than a contribution of £150k. JH noted that this is completely out of our control and was an assessment made at the time of the Trustees meeting with the Investment Manager.

JH noted that the current level of fundraising income of circa £200k should not be relied on during 2015 due to the current market. Many companies are tightening their belts and all are on tight budgets so reluctant to spend on sponsorship as we have heard this week that Massey Fergusson has pulled out of the sponsorship of Annual Convention. JH noted that Christina Evans has done a great job and is working hard trying to get sponsorship. JH urged council members to let Christina have any future leads or contacts.

JH noted that the 2015 budgets have now been drafted and include a proposed levy rise of 20% for 2015-2016. This still produces a projected deficit of £232k with a zero contribution from the HOPS Investment.

JH noted that there needs to be ongoing discussions concerning the levy and this needs to be agreed at the February meeting. JH noted that if there was a 0% levy rise this equates to £49,500 off the bottom line.

Diane Coles asked if the membership could see a 20% levy rise in terms of pounds and pence per person with a simple explanation sheet again. JCE noted that constitutionally the levy did have to be published as a percentage, but there was no reason why an explanation could not be published in this way (as last year), a 20% levy increase would equate approx. £2.20 per member. CW noted that an explanation paper could be produced again this year.

Jonathan Eayrs noted that Julia Pointon had done a good presentation to council two years ago. All council agreed that membership numbers need to be increased in order to help bring the levy down.

CW asked council for their initial thoughts if a 20% levy increase was proposed. Will Court was confident that members are expecting it. Charles Polak noted that his County would not welcome a rise, and they have had a 300% increase in 3 years in their County and they may not support it.

Charles Polak asked JH what are the Reserves of the Federation, JH confirmed that these were around the £2M mark, however there needs to be sufficient funds for winding up the Federation, and also some funds

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are listed as being restricted for certain projects.

JH emphasised to council that we must not cut services as in the past it has had a hugely detrimental effect on NFYFC.

HT noted that currently the membership is recruiting 7,000 members per year, but also figures show that 7,000 members leave, so the issue of retention and why our members are not staying needs to be addressed. NFYFC needs to look at way to support you to help increase and keep members.

Duncan Howie noted that the members needs to get behind HOPS and to make sure that it becomes profitable again which will help NFYFC.

Katie Davies noted that her area would not be in favour of the 20%, but if it is explained in monetary terms then it would mean more to the members.

Lionel Hill – suggested that in order to show that NFYFC is value for money; it may be a good idea to do some comparison costings of other similar organisations such as the Scout & Guide Associations. CW confirmed that they will do some benchmarking exercises and other examples such as 3 Coffees for £10.

CW/JCE

CW thanked the members for their input and noted that there will be more debate at the February meeting, and asked council members to go back and speak to their areas and counties.

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**13. HOPS Presentation - John Hardman** – JH gave a powerpoint presentation to explain the HOPS business in detail copy had been circulated to council. In summary, JH gave the history of HOPs and the outgoing SAWS scheme. He tabled the current structure. He outlined what has happened in HOPs sincere Autumn 2013 and highlighted the current legacies and challenges ahead. JH tabled the new strategic plan outline and covered the projects of HOPS Education, HOPS Recruitment, HOPS Executive, and HOPS Labour. Looking forward HOPS would like to place 50 apprentices with partners, to be on target to place approximately 100 skilled workers during 2014 which will produce revenue of over £10,000. They wish to build on the relationship with Delacy, and to achieve a similar level of trading if not more in 2015.

JH noted that NFYFC have received £13,500 from HOPS to support CEJA and also £55, 000 in office rental during 2014. HOPS still remains NFYFC's bigger earner. HOPS have a stand booked at the LAMMA show in 2015 with NFYFC. They are supported by a new designed web site. JH emphasised that HOPS needs the support of YFC members to help promote their business and JH is meeting with the NFYFC marketing department next week to look at ways of support for both HOPS and NFYFC to work together.

Chris Manley commended JH for his clarity in keeping council up to date and suggested perhaps a short video to be made available to counties and clubs for explain the work of HOPs and how YFC can help.

Jonathan Eayrs asked JH how HOPS would stand if the UK were to pull out of the EU. JH noted that he continues to lobby the government with other competitors Concordia and the NFU and is sure that HOPS could pull staff from Russia and the Ukraine and would reassess the work force should this happen.

Jessica Townson suggested some A4 posters and flyers giving a visual explanation which YFC clubs could display in their meeting venues. JH noted that there are available small cards which have David Hamer on the front.

James Goulding noted that 4Xtrahands regularly have slots in the Farmers Weekly and HOPS should be advertising more regularly. JH took this on board.

Sam Dilcock asked JH is he could see YFC getting any profit in 2015. JH noted that if there was any profit for YFC it would show in the predicted figures for 2015, but not go over to the books until 2016.

JH noted that he would like all county website to have the HOPS website address showing so that this would drive traffic to HOPS JH noted that there is a recruitment link where possible candidates can post their CV's.

Rachel Milner thanked JH for his presentation but asked that when HOPS is being advertised to YFC that the wording is kept simple with no abbreviations or acronyms—published material must be accessible to all potential audiences.

JH

Mark Curr queried with JH how long he would remain as the Director for HOPS on the Board of Management? JH confirmed that this was initially for an infinite period, but he believes that a timescale needs to be looked at.

C/14/192 **14.Meirionydd Fares Pool** – CW noted that she has been in discussions with Ffion and the County see the situation in two stages. Firstly, they recognise the need for the Fares Pool and they confirm that they wish to be part of this. They hope to send representatives to future council meetings.

C/14/193 The second issue of the outstanding debts, they have agreed to pay the last outstanding invoice. This does mean that there remains a small old debt of £180 to be written off, and CW asked for council's approval to do this. Council voted and approved this action.

C/14/194 **15. The Election of a Board of Management Representative for the South West & West Midlands Areas** - CW noted that following the resignation of Paul Glanvill from the board, one nomination had been received for Victoria Hicks (Gloucestershire FYFC). CW called upon Tess Cadman to propose Victoria. In summary, Tessa was honoured to be asked to propose Victoria Hicks for this role. She had known Victoria over the last 2 years and highlighted her roles in YFC and her working connections with the Three Counties Show. Tessa noted that Victoria was well placed living in Gloucestershire to be able to represent both South West and West Midlands areas. Victoria had been Chairman of Gloucestershire FYFC and she had no hesitation in proposing Victoria for this role on the board.

C/14/195 CW called upon Joy Davenport to second the proposal. Joy was pleased to be able to second the proposal and highlighted Victoria's YFC work with South West Area and her good connections through the Three Counties Show. Joy noted that Victoria had worked hard within the South West Area and her own county of Gloucestershire, she had no hesitation in seconding the proposal that Victoria should represent the two areas on the board of management.

C/14/196 CW asked council to vote reminding members that this was for only England members as Wales YFC vote for their representative. The proposal was carried; Victoria Hicks was duly elected as the new representative on the Board of Management. CW thanked Paul Glanvill for this work on the board and welcomed Victoria who will do an equally good job.

C/14/197 **16. FCN Presentation** – CW welcomed Matt Caldicott, Development Officer from FCN to give a presentation (copy available from NFYFC) detailing the work of FCN and how YFC can work with them. Matt highlighted the work of FCN, the Ethos and Purpose together with some statistics showing the problems which affect the farming community and the age range of people FCN help. Matt covered the five steps for Mental Wellbeing and finally confirmed that FCN wish to build stronger relationships with YFC to offer support to all age groups and to develop training material to facilitate YFC group sessions. Matt remained after the meeting to answer any questions from council members.

C/14/198 CW thanked MC for his presentation and asked council members to encourage YFC clubs to hold a Rural+ night and to feedback details to her.

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C/14/199 **15. Date of the Next Meeting**

CW confirmed the date of the next council meeting to be **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**, at the Quality Hotel, Allesley.

C/14/200 **16. Any Other Business & Closing Remarks** - CW thanked Council members for joining the discussions

and debates today – the meeting had been lively and the opinion of Council was something that mattered. CW noted that she would be handing over to a new chair in February. She is thrilled that the federation was going from strength to strength, and a lot of this was down to increased and positive use of in social media, especially twitter, within clubs and county federations – this helps and supports the NFYFC and allows the NFYFC communicate the many successes of Clubs and Counties. CW said that there appears to be a massive ‘buzz of excitement’ at the moment throughout YFC, and this reflects on the current council and relies on council members attending the meetings at County and Area levels - taking the messages back, she thanked the council for their support during her year of office.

C/14/201 **Wiltshire Calendar** . – James Hutchings addressed council and noted that Wiltshire FYFC had produced a calendar in their 80<sup>th</sup> year at a cost of £10 - monies going towards the Air Ambulance and encouraged members to purchase a copy.

C/14/202 **Wales YFC Agri Conference** – Katie Davies addressed council and invited them to attend the Wales YFC Rural Affairs Conference taking place at Builth Wells on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

ALL

C/14/203 Lionel Hill addressed council and wished to send best wishes to Chris Lloyd for a speedy recovery following his recent operation. CW thanked LH and confirmed that Chris was doing well and would pass on council’s best wishes to him.

CW

C/14/204 With no further business CW thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 2.15pm

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

Claire Worden – Chair of Council