



**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015,  
at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry CV5 9BA**

**Present:** Miss Claire Worden (Chair of Council), Miss Hannah Talbot (Vice Chair of Council & Chair Elect), Mr Chris Manley (Vice Chair of Council) Miss Jessica Townson (Vice Chair Elect) 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 Mr Christopher Lloyd as Returning Officer and Mr Jon Sarsfield & Mrs Anne Sarsfield as Tellers for this meeting*

	Actioned By
<p>C/15/01 <b>1. Chair 's welcome</b> – CW welcomed members to the first council meeting of the year. CW noted that YFC members had been very busy during the Christmas period and they have all been proactive in the counties. CW asked council to have a moment of reflection for those who have passed away and in particular those who have lost their lives to accidents.</p>	
<p>C/15/02 <b>2. Apologies for absence</b> were recorded in the attendance book.</p>	
<p>C/15/03 <b>3. Diary Update Chair , Vice Chair &amp; Chief Officer</b> – (Copies were circulated at the meeting). CW noted that the officers had been very busy and had got round to as many events as they could and thanked everyone for their invitations. <i>CW invited HT to give a short presentation to Council</i></p>	
<p>C/15/04 <b>4. NFYFC Council – You Represent Your County</b> – HT noted to council that the council meeting was for members to discuss proposals that the Steering Groups wished to put forward and also to discuss the proposals of the Board of Management.</p>	
<p>C/15/05 HT requested members to make sure that they read the council agenda and any relevant paperwork before the meeting and to find out their county's views on any issued that might come up.</p>	ALL
<p>C/15/06 HT encouraged members to ask questions during the meeting, and not to be afraid to contribute to the meeting, even if it is not about the steering group you sit on.</p>	
<p>C/15/07 HT asked members to take notes during the meeting and to go back to their county with the proposals and the decisions made by this council. HT asked council to make sure that they read the minutes and supporting papers of the meeting and report back to their county executives with any actions required, ready to take the views of the their county back to the next steering group meeting which will be in June. CW thanked HT for her presentation.</p>	
<p>C/15/08 <b>5. To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b> (paper no 152-14-A) refers. CW noted to council that there was an amendment needed to those Minutes in respect of Item 8 concerning the Tug Of War as follows: "That the members of the Gwent Federations Men's and Ladies Tug of War teams (16 individuals) will receive a ban from the NFYFC Tug of War ( the word <b>competition</b> – should be replaced with the word <b>Final</b>) 2014/2015" . Council voted and approved this amendment. The minutes were then agreed as a true and correct record and duly signed by Claire Worden.</p>	
<p>C/15/09 <b>6. Matters Arising from those Minutes</b> - 6.1 CW noted that following council's decision in October, DH/JCE had written to Gwent FYFC with regarding to banning the male and female Gwent's tug of war teams . Following this correspondence has been received on the 17 December addressed to David Hamer from the Gwent County Federation. Requesting that Joshua Davies from the male tug of war, and Sarah Bradley, Bethan James, Tryphena James, Kate Jones, Hannah Lougher, Kathryn Powell and Charlotte Waters, should be lifted from the ban as they were the only members who had not</p>	

pulled for both counties.

Mark Curr (Cumbria) noted that the members must have known that their other team members had pulled for both counties.

Toby France (Warwickshire) noted that Joshua Davies must have known that the team had pulled for both counties

Heidi Baker (Buckinghamshire) noted that it is clear in the rules that an individual or a whole team should be banned? We need to make sure that it goes back to Competitions to see how it is written in the General Rules.

Council voted on the Proposal 'To lift the ban for Joshua Davies from the Gwent Tug of War Team who had not pulled for two counties'. With 1 member voting in favour of the proposal, and the remainder of council voting against for proposal, it was a unanimous decision that the proposal was not carried and his ban remains.

Council then voted on the Proposal 'To lift the ban on 7 members of the Gwent Ladies team as only Laura Griffiths had pulled for both Gwent & Herefordshire Counties'. 3 council members voted in favour of the proposal and with no abstentions the remainder of council voted against the proposal and it was not carried, this means that the ban remains in place for all members.

c/15/10 Action CW/HT to reply to this correspondence.

#### c/15/11 **6.Election of Offices of the 2015 Council**

##### c/15/12 **6.1 NFYFC Chair of Council 2015**

c/15/13 CW noted to council that Hannah Talbot from Worcestershire FYFC had been proposed by; Joy Davenport (JD) (Somerset) and seconded by; Katie Davies (KD) (Pembrokeshire). CW invited JD to make her proposal:

c/15/14 JD addressed council and noted that HT was a good candidate for NFYFC Chair of Council. HT is from Cutnall Green YFC, her parents and grandparents have all been involved with YFC. HT has held roles as County Secretary, and County Chair upon returning from University. She has been involved in charity events and helping to organise the county anniversary event. She has been West Midlands Area Chair and has encouraged the members to take part in competitions and events across the area. She was NFYFC Competitions Chair for two years, and has always had the grass root members at her heart. She was Senior Member of the Year in 2005. As County Chair she successfully organised the Winter Wonderland Ball getting Sarah Cox to the event, and has also been involved with the West Midlands Rally. She is Head of English at a school in Worcester and has completed a Masters Degree in Education. JD believes that HT is the person to take NFYFC forward and she will take on the new challenges ahead, and has no hesitation in proposing her for the role of NFYFC Chair of Council for 2015.

c/15/15 CW invited Katie Davies (KD) to second the proposal;

c/15/16 KD addressed council and noted that she was honoured to propose HT for the role of NFYFC Chair of Council for 2015. KD noted that HT has held many roles at Club/County and area levels and that she has a lot of experience to bring to the role. She will listen to the views of the grass root members and put forward their ideas for the future. She has been a successful vice chair of council for two years and has supported her chair in these roles and travelled to many events meeting the members. KD has no hesitation in seconding this proposal.

c/15/17 Council voted and unanimously supported the Election of Hannah Talbot for Chair of Council for 2015-2016

##### c/15/18 **6.2 NFYFC Vice Chair of Council 2015**

c/15/19 CW noted to council that Chris Manley (Devon FYFC) has been proposed by; Ed Ford (EF) (Essex FYFC) and seconded by; Iwan Meirion (IM) (Wales YFC). CW invited EF to make his proposal:

c/15/20 EF addressed council and proposed Chris Manley for NFYFC Vice Chair of Council for 2015-2016. EF noted that CM joined Culm Valley YFC in 2004 and took on the role of Social Secretary running several large events very successfully. CM also encouraged his members to take part in competitions taking them through to national finals. CM has also been on YFC trips to Finland and Kansas. CM has had a very successful time

attending Harper Adams where he took on the role of Social Ambassador; he was very active with the students union being their Social Secretary, and eventually College President. CM has had a successful career on a graduate programme with Mole Valley, and is now a Manager of Lamb with Tesco. CM contributes to the AGRI Steering Group, has been a CEJA rep, judged at the AGM, attended the Oxford Farming debate, challenging rural leadership. CM will be attending the YFC India trip later this year. CM is a good listener and his love of YFC will help the member's dreams turn into reality.

C/15/21 IM addressed council to second the proposal: IM noted that CM has successfully led the team in the European Rally in Wales. CM has empathy and understanding always ready to listen to the members, especially regarding the financial cuts and has been on the telephone to offer his support to Wales YFC. CM is not afraid to speak out and if he was to be Vice Chair for the second year he would make sure the membership goes from strength to strength and has the full support of the Wales Executive.

C/15/22 Council voted and unanimously supported the Election of Chris Manley for Vice Chair of Council for 2015-2016

### C/15/23 **6.3 NFYFC Vice Chair of Council 2015**

C/15/24 CW noted to council that Jessica Townson (Lancashire FYFC) has been proposed by; Lynsey Martin (Kent FYFC), and seconded by; Sam Dilcock (Yorkshire). CW invited Lynsey Martin (Kent), to give her proposal:

C/15/25 Lynsey address council and noted that Jessica is a member of Bolton by Bowland YFC, and has held all the key roles, and was Chair in 2011 to 2013. She has helped her club and county with charity events completing a 300 mile walk raising £2,000 for charity, and she helps to promote her members on radio and in print. JT has been Northern Area Chair and represents her area on the Competitions Steering Group. JT is a Chartered Surveyor for a firm in Clitheroe, and always leans a helping hand on the family farm milking and delivering the milk. LM has no hesitation is proposed JT for the role of NFYFC Vice Chair for 2015-2016.

C/15/26 SD was pleased to second the nomination for JT. Although he comes from Yorkshire he was happy to propose a Lancashire member recounting the War of the Roses!. SD noted that JT has YFC in her blood and could be an excellent candidate to take the National Federation forward, she is career driven and more than capable of doing the Vice Chair role, her enthusiasm for competing is also a great starting point.

C/15/27 Council voted and unanimously supported the Election of Jessica Townson for Vice Chair of Council for 2015-2016. Jessica joined the top table officer team.

C/15/28 CW handed over officially to HT, presenting her with the 'Chain of Office'.

C/15/29 CW addressed council noting that she never thought that she would ever be chair of council, having been chair of the competitions steering group it all becomes addictive. She has had an amazing 16 months, and was pleased to see the new board of management structure, bringing transparency and clarity down to the grass root members CW noted that at the first council meeting last year, a lot of the country was under water, and having heard an emotional speech from Joy Davenport, it was just amazing to see the members gather in strength with the help of Ed Ford, Foragaid just took off and you must all be very proud of yourselves.

C/15/30 CW thanked all the member of council for their support and taking up the challenges, there has been some good debate at council. She thanked everyone for their support with her personal challenge Rural+ and she hoped that the campaign would continue and that clubs would continue to discuss it in their club meetings.

C/15/31 CW thanked her club Lostwithiel YFC for all their support and also Cornwall County, and especially Kelly Evans in the County Office for all her help. CW thanked Frank Chester for his support from the Board of Management, and also James Eckley who has once again stepped up to the challenge. CW thanked her steering group chair, Nicola, Russell, David and David who have led their teams so well. CW presented gifts to her team. CW also thanked CL for his support during her year.

HT addressed council and had enjoyed working with CW for 2 ½ years. HT noted that CW would be a hard act to follow. HT noted that CW has been visual throughout the year and has travelled the breadth of the country to get to events. HT noted that on the European Rally to Slovenia CW did not use any form of technology. She now has an apple product and an expensive Radley Handbag! HT presented CW with gifts from Council and a personal gift from herself. CW left the top table and took her seat with the council members.

C/15/32 **7. Election of Co-options**

The previous internal and external Co-options were displayed. HT asked council to put forward nominations for the internal co-options, these were: Caroline Baker, David Maidment, Faith Cosgrove, Helen Pearse, Sioned Davies and Emma Kelcher.

The following external co-options were proposed: The Worshipful Company of Farmers, NFU, Young Farmers Ambassadors, Farm Community Network (FCN), NFU Mutual, and British Youth Council.

Council voted and the Co-options were duly elected en-bloc. The remaining 4 places will remain vacant until the June Council meeting when nominations for the 4 places will be taken again.

C/15/33 **8. To receive any relevant correspondence**

C/15/34 **8.1 Letter from Mr Douglas Murray** - HT read out a letter from Mr Douglas Murray (NFYFC Honorary Life Member), who was registering his concern that an increase in levy could have an effect on some counties who are themselves facing massive cuts and loss of grants and donations. DM also suggested a Prize Draw of a 4x4 to be run at the annual convention to raise additional income. HT asked for any thoughts on the letter – none were received.

C/15/35 **8.2 Letter from Mr John Hardman** : HT read out a letter of resignation from John Hardman who explained that he was stepping down from the role of NFYFC Hon. Treasurer. JH has noted and wish to thanks the support he had received from JCE/Jim Minshaw/Shirley Ball in the YFC Centre. JH noted the challenges ahead in the short, medium and long term with; income, expenditure, the NFYFC office accommodation and in view of no donation coming over from HOPS, and an average monthly burn rate of £20,000, cost measures must be put in place quickly. JH's letter was noted and HT on behalf of council thanked John Hardman for his services to the Federation in the role of Treasurer.

C/15/36 **8.3 Correspondence from Gwent FYFC** :HT informed council that the NFYFC Competitions Desk has since received a 15 page letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 including an Executive Summary from the Gwent Men's Tug of War Team objecting to the claims of rule breaking, cheating, and their belief that a standard club constitution rule had been misinterpreted.

C/15/37 HT proposed to council and seconded by David Hamer that 'An Appeals Committee be set up to take this forward' Council voted and the decision was unanimous.

Sam Dilcock (Yorkshire) – noted to council 'Where are these members today, why haven't they come to the meeting?'

Sophie Clarke (Herefordshire) noted that it is an individual letter from the Gwent members only . Herefordshire FYFC is supporting the council's decision.

Iwan Meirion (Wales YFC Chair) – noted that the document is from Gwent FYFC and not Wales YFC.

Council discussed the make-up of the Appeals Panel and suggested that it could be: the current and past chair of council. Two vice chairs, and the current and past competitions chair and vice, a neutral member and a Wales YFC Rep.

HT

The suggested names put forward were: Claire Worden, Hannah Talbot, David Hamer, Mark Curr, Iwan Meirion, Helen Williams, Chris Manley, and Matt Tomkins. Council agreed to delegate the final decision on the make-up of this appeals panel to HT. Action HT will confirm this Appeals Panel and set up the meeting.

HT

Linda Savage (NFYFC Deputy President West Midlands) - Stressed to council that the Appeal Panel's decision should be final. Council agreed.

*Council took a break*

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

HT invited Lynsey Martin to deliver her report from the AGRI Steering Group;

LM thanked Russell Carrington for his time on AGRI and noted that he had done a fantastic job as Chair and

noted that she had been elected as the new Chair of the AGRI Steering Group with Sam Dilcock elected as Vice

Chair. The group had elected Tom Wells, Becky Heal and Charlotte Johnston were elected as co-options

Tom Wells was elected as CLA representative, Ed Ford was elected as LEAF representative, Becky Heal was elected as TRIG representative, and James Hutchinson elected as NFU representative. Charlotte Johnston, Ed Ford, Tom Wells & Carys Vaughan were elected as European representatives.

LM noted that Rebecca Barningham & Rebecca Kirk from UK Dairy Day gave a presentation and solicited feedback on their new learning & development zone for this year, and the group will be attending the UK Dairy Day. LM noted that the topic for the AGRI forum will be *"What is your future in farming?"*.

LM noted that the Board of Management have highlighted to the group that they are not in a position to fund CEJA going forward. It was noted by the group that the membership of CEJA is extremely important to the NFYFC. Over the past two and a half years, they have seen many benefits and the pinnacle of this is the Young Farmers' Scheme - mandatory top-up payments to BPS worth up to £18,000 per qualifying Young Farmer. They will endeavour to find another way of continuing their influence in Europe, as per the terms of reference and hope that in the future, they can find a way of funding CEJA membership. Council voted and approved this course of action.

LM asked for Council's approval to open discussions with the NFU & other organisations to partner the NFYFC to enable CEJA membership. Council voted and approved this course of action.

LM asked Council to approve that AGRI will be looking into a trip to Agritechnika in November as an income generating activity. Council voted and approved

c/15/38 HT invited Mark Curr to deliver his report from the Competitions Steering Group

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

MC noted that the group had held a lengthy meeting with lots of debate which was very productive. MC thanked DH for the excellent job he had done as Chair. MC noted that he had been duly elected as the new Chair of the Competitions Steering Group with Matt Tomkins elected his Vice Chair. MC also noted that the group had elected Claire Worden, Lisa Hawkins and Faith Cosgrove as co-options. Lisa Hawkins & Matt Tomkins were elected as English Winter Fair representatives and David Hamer & George Goodwin was elected as Tug of War representatives.

MC noted that for any NFYFC competitions, the group agreed that company logos should only appear on the back of the White coats for stockjudging.

MC noted that the group will link forces with the National Society of Ploughmen.

MC noted that the group have agreed that the musical accompanist for the Pantomime Competition must be 26 and under.

MC noted that the time limit has been extended to 45 minutes for the Efficiency with Safety competition and the questionnaire is for the National final only.

MC was pleased to announce that a fun darts competition will be held at Annual Convention on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am. This will include a knockout competition and 6 dart challenge. This is for wristbanded members only and we have received a £600 sponsorship from 'The Round Table', so will be able to give some cash prizes on the day.

MC noted that the Cube Exhibit will now be held at Competitions Day on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015 instead of the Tenbury Show on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

MC noted that Tenbury Show will include a 4+4 catchweight Tug of War competition, with a maximum of 12 teams.

MC noted that venues are to be confirmed for the Fence Erecting and Efficiency with Safety for 2015/16.

MC noted that the Steering Group will be requesting a full breakdown of their budgets for individual competitions so that a review can take place by this group in June.

MC noted that an additional £1,000 sponsorship has been secured for the 2014/15 programme.

MC asked all council to go back to their members and ask for some suggestions for the 2016/17 competitions programme.

MC asked council to approve the Rules for 2015/16 competitions, including the change to the English Speaking Union MACE debating rules. Council voted and approved this change.

Heidi (Buckinghamshire) queried whether you had to have a logo on the back of the coats or whether it was optional. She felt that there should be some clarification made.

Katie Wainwright (Derbyshire) felt that the decision was most unfair as Derbyshire YFC have just had all their coats produced 200 No. with the YFC logo on the front pocket and it would be too costly to have them done again.

DH noted that the group are trying to help the members, as in the end it comes down to the judge's decision whether they choose to deduct marks for any logos on the front of coats.

Rachel (Co Durham) felt that a judge should only be judging the stock content of the competition and not taking off marks for dress.

MC noted that the discussion on white coats will go back to the steering group for further discussions in June.

Jonathan Eayrs queried regarding the Efficiency with Safety competition and part of it was the ATV, where members need a National Course on ATV Training and felt that this is putting off members competing. MC noted JE's comments but noted that it is for health & safety and insurance reasons that this is put in.

It was suggested that the competition itself could be classed as the actual training, if the judge was qualified. JCE noted that the competition is meant to be commercial and not recreational and to cover a working environment. JCE noted that the majority of accidents which happen involve ATV's and we need to make sure that we are sending the right messages. JCE also noted that training is a good opportunity but there is some cost involved.

HT invited Katie Davies to deliver her report from the Events & Marketing Steering Group

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

KD thanked David Maidment for previously chairing the group so well. KD confirmed that he Group had elected her as the new Chair of the Events & Marketing Steering Group and she was pleased that Caroline Baker has been voted in as her Vice Chair. KD confirmed that James Goulding, Ben Robinson and Jade Bowerman were voted in as Co-options to this group.

ALL



KD confirmed that the group had discussed in detail the YFC Ski trip, and had received a feedback report from the previous company 'Outgoing'. KD noted that NFYFC were going out to tender for the 2016 YFC Ski trip and confirmed that next year's trip will be held in Les Arcs in France from the 9th to the 16th January 2016. The group will continue to build the programme and work on a suitable 3 year rotation of resorts for future events.

KD noted that the group had discussed in detail the Annual Convention and had received feedback on hotel situation in Torquay. KD asked all council members to take the message back to their counties if any County has any spare beds for Convention, they need to contact Emily Johnson at the YFC centre, [emily.johnson@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:emily.johnson@nfyfc.org.uk), telephone no 02476 857218.

ALL

KD noted that there are still vacancies in the Event Management Team in Torquay and asked all council to promote this to the membership. The Group will also help to keep looking for a main sponsor for Annual Convention. KD noted that the Annual Convention programme is nearly complete. Radio 1 DJs confirmed so far are Huw Stephens on Friday, and Dev Patel and Chris Stark on Sunday. KD also noted that the Group have put forward their choice for Radio 1 DJ(s) for Saturday night and these will be confirmed shortly.

KD noted that the Group will work closer with the Youth Forum about promoting our younger members through social media, YFC Buzz and Ten26.

KD noted that the top 3 Choices in the YFC Slogan competition were chosen. These will be put into a poll on the website and the winner will be announced at AGM: "Outstanding In Our Field", "Keeping It Rural", "Skills for work, friends for life."

KD noted that the Group are also dedicated to raising more money for the Federation as a whole and suggested that the ticket price for Annual Convention be increased by £10. The proposal will be put forward to the Board of Management, ready for the June Council weekend.

c/15/39 HT invited Toby France to deliver his report from the Personal Development Steering Group

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

TF noted that he was most surprised to be back in the role of PD Chair, he thanked Nicola Chegwidden for keeping the seat warm. TF was pleased to announce that the group had elected Mark Hurst as their Vice Chair. He noted that election of their groups Co-options will be held at the next meeting following a recruitment drive. It was also noted by council that this should include an YFA representative Co-option added into the group in June.

PD

TF noted that the PD members have thoroughly looked through the budgets and have fed in their views on where money could be saved. Further details will be sent to the steering group members and confirmed that one of the PD's targets for the year is to have a break even budget for YFC Travel.

TF noted that the group have read through the revised terms of reference, suggestions will be included and re-circulated to the steering group ready for adoption in June.

TF noted that the steering group reported on the recent training events including Cash Management, County Chair's Day, Staff Conference and Train the Trainer (WMA and NA). All comments on these trainings were very positive. TF also noted that the East Midlands Area had ran a successful Master Class in County Roadshows and the training plans are available to other areas to use if they wish to run the course.

TF noted that a Trainers Forum survey has taken place, and the group aim to hold a Trainers Forum meeting in the North and the South in 2015 which will include the delivery on a Curve. TF noted that so far approximately

227 participants since September have received Curve training, slightly down on this time last year.

He encouraged all counties to incorporate Curve Training into Club programmes and information will be included in the Spring mailing.

KD noted that the steering group support the new training schedule looking at rotating the training around areas every three years. This will be circulated shortly. KF noted that Robert Williams had attended the NatWest Conference on behalf of the PD steering group to speak to employees about the partnership with NatWest in delivering the training.

KF was pleased to announce that all the 2015 YFC Travel trips have been filled, and in order to save money on the PD budget they are looking at holding Skype interviews instead of an YFC Travel interview day next year.

KF noted that there will be two Twitter sessions held on the YFC Travel Programme and these will take place in September and November, confirmed dates will be announced. KF also noted that it is planned to have a Curve module developed to promote the YFC Travel programme.

KF noted that the group have suggested looking into the outgoing YFC exchangees members having business cards to take out with them in order to make useful contacts on their trips and to promote YFC.

KF noted that guidelines will be developed for Club Exchanges together with best practice for under 18 year olds.

c/15/40 HT invited Danielle McNaulty to deliver her report from the Youth Forum Steering Group

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

DMcN thanked Sioned Davies the outgoing chair of the Youth Forum for doing an excellent job and for being so enthusiastic about the group. DMcN was pleased to have been elected the new chair of the youth forum, and confirmed that Amy Swinbank was duly elected her vice chair. Elections had taken place at their last meeting held in the Isle of Man where they had been well received by the YFC members and had also been joined by Hannah Talbot, James Eckley and Jodie Green for the Residential weekend at the Adventure Centre.

DMcN noted that the forum will be pitching to sponsors to have the 'Watch that cowpat' educational resource produced for use throughout YFC.

DMcN noted that the Forum is re-designing the 'Have Your Say' document to support county youth forum formation and ongoing work. She also noted that the group are working with South West Area to create a resource to support other areas to provide residential activities for younger members

DMcN was pleased to announce that both their Motions put forward to the British Youth Council have been included in the National Manifesto, and the Forum will continue to work on the Rural Mental Health and Field to Fork education projects.

DMcN noted that the group have appointed a Sub Group to support the organisation and promotion of the 2016 under 18s YFC Ski Trip.

DMcN noted that the Forum is continuing to review the group's Terms of Reference in line with the other steering groups TOR's.

DMcN noted that some Forum members will be attending the 'Big Bang Careers Faire' event at the NEC in conjunction with AGRI to help promote careers in Agriculture.



DMcN asked council to approve a Motion to go to the NFYFC Annual General Meeting in April and that the Motion should be: *“Those taking office of NFYFC Council (excluding Co-options to Council) or sub-committees of Council must be within the membership age of the NFYFC when they first take office.”*

Council discussed this Motion at length, Georgina Morris addressed council and noted that on the NFU website, YFC are publicised as being ‘Led by Young People, For Young People’ and she feels that we are not doing what we say.

Sam Dilcock noted to council that although it good to get the young members involved, it is becoming increasingly difficult to get members to take up roles in their clubs and counties, apart from trying to get them to be a council representative.

Rachael Milner also noted that her county are small and they find it difficult to fill the roles. She feels that not everyone is confident enough to come to council and to be able to speak out in a room full of people, sometimes it is better that the older members take on these roles and leave the young members to run their clubs.

Lynsey Martin noted that the council and steering group did not want to discourage the young members taking part, that is why council asked that the Youth Forum group become a recognised Steering Group in order to have their say at council meetings.

David Hamer thanked the Youth Forum for their aspiration and thought that the Motion was a good aspiration but noted the clubs and counties are crying out for members to take on roles. He noted that the club constitution defines the membership age and he believes that we should stick to what is covered and don't make more rules.

HT noted a good debate by council and asked them to vote on taking this Motion from Council to the AGM. Council voted 4 For, 7 Abstentions, and remainder of council Against, the proposal was not carried and the Motion will not go to the AGM this year.

HT thanked DMcN for her report and for speaking out with the proposed Motion.

C/15/41 HT invited Frank Chester to deliver his report from the Board of Management

C/15/42 **12. To receive and adopt the report of the Board of Management.**

FC congratulated council on their good steering group meetings and all the business which has been discussed. He applauded council and noted the members are the best.

FC noted that the board had welcomed Miss Joleen Powell who has been nominated by Wales YFC as the BoM representative for that Area, and he thanked Miranda McGinn, retiring representative for her excellent contribution to the board.

FC noted that the board had looked at the 2015 Budgets in detail at their meeting, and it noted that there are some challenging times ahead. FC noted that there is a substantial burn rate of £20,000 per month and the board have agreed to designate £300,000 from reserves for special projects to be looked at by JCE, this money is returning from a trading surplus which had been put into investments in the past.

FC noted that NFYFC have been making significant savings in the running costs of the YFC centre and will continue to make savings wherever possible, but he emphasised that it important that the membership consider the 20% levy increased being proposed by the board and for council to take this back to their members. FC was pleased to see that the steering groups were taking ownership of their budgets and also looking at ways to make savings.

FC noted that the board have agreed the Draft NFYFC Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 as presented by Grant Thornton and that these accounts will be approved at the Annual General Meeting and detailed in the Annual Report 2014.

FC noted that the board are setting up a Working Group to progress with the NFYFC Development Plan for 2015 – 2017 and that the board are also setting up a Working Group to complete a Governance Review of the Federation.

FC noted that as discussed in the AGRI steering group, the board have confirmed that there is currently no budget available for the membership of CEJA, and have asked the AGRI Steering Group to look into the possibilities of future funding as previously discussed.

FC noted that the board have considered the Draft Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015.(copies were made available for Council at this meeting).

FC noted that Mr John Hardman has resigned as Hon. Treasurer on the Board of Management, and the board will actively seek a replacement Treasurer. The board wish to thank Mr John Hardman for his services to the Federation in this role.

FC noted that he was pleased to see that the board have agreed to continue to fund the NFU Employment Service for 2015, but will complete a tendering process to look at this service for 2016; the service has been well used with several new members of staff arriving in the counties.

FC asked council to consider and approved the following Motion **“That the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 be increased by 20%”** (Note: *Based on most recent membership return, this equates £2.66 per member*). Council voted 0 against, 2 Abstentions; the Motion was approved to go to the NFYFC AGM on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015. HT encouraged council to go out and inform the membership about this levy proposal and the reasons behind it. Council voted and approved to add the *‘Motion for Associate Members Levy to be increased from £6.00 to £7.00 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016’*.

Mark Curr queried in the budgets the cost of £17,000 for audit fees and noted that these appear high. FC confirmed that JCE will be looking into this with a view to going out to tender in the future.

FC asked council to approve the NFYFC Sexual Health Policy and Guidelines which has been out for consultation and that this should now be adopted by this Council. Council voted and approved these Guidelines which will now be published.

FC noted that the board wish to appoint Mr David Hamer as the Board Director Rep on the HOPS business, as a replacement for John Hardman, and have discussed this role and feel that David is ideally suited to this role in view of his knowledge of agriculture and his connections with the NFU committees. Council voted and approved this position.

FC thanked council for their contribution to his report, he noted the challenges ahead and that there were few

hurdles to jump.

C/15/43 **15. Date of the Next Meeting**

HT confirmed the date of the next council meeting to be Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015, at the Quality Hotel, Allesley.

C/15/44 **16. Any Other Business & Closing Remarks -**

16.1 Sam Dilcock informed council that Yorkshire was holding their 65<sup>th</sup> Show at Fir Tree Farm on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and he invited everyone to come along. Posters were being prepared and he would arrange to circulate these. ALL

16.2 Sam Dilcock asked council to consider that following when looking at the membership age of 10 -26 and after 26 the current system of Associates, that perhaps we consider a 'Veterans Membership' instead of Associate, and that this may bring members back in and give them some of the discounts available. HT thanked SD and noted that this could be looked at as part of the Development Plan Maria is putting together.

16.3 AGRI Forum – Lynsey Martin asked council to encourage the membership to attend the AGRI Forum which will be held in Torquay on the Saturday and will commence with a Hog Roast lunch at 12 noon followed by the Forum. ALL

16.4 Ed Ford noted to council that one year on and the Foragaid Charity is now set up and asked council to encourage the membership to think about this charity if they are planning fundraising events. ALL

16.5 Roy Boreham acknowledged the council members and thanked Ed Ford for bringing him to the council meeting.

16.6 Iwan Meirion addressed council and noted that Wales YFC have lost £140,000 of government funding. He noted that they are doing a review of Wales YFC and its structure and have set up an online petition of support and encouraged everyone to put their names to this petition. He noted that there are further discussions to be held and Vicky and Iwan are doing everything they can to take Wales YFC forward for the future. HT thanked Iwan for this explanation and encouraged YFC to get behind this campaign. ALL

16.7 Kelly Evans – Cornwall County Organiser – addressed council and congratulated Claire Worden on her successfully year as Chair of Council and noted that her club and her county are very proud of what she has achieved in her year, and the tremendous time and effort she has put in to attending all the events including those locally and she hopes that Claire now has a well deserved rest.

16.8 Russell Carrington informed council that he was pleased that the Rural Youth Europe has recognised the Rural+ Campaign as a winning project in their competition for the year 2014. Huge congratulations go to Claire Worden and this means that two extra YFC members will be able to attend the European Rally in 2015.

C/15/45 **17 Hannah Talbot – Chair of Council Aims For The Year Ahead**

HT addressed council and noted that for the year ahead she wanted to focus on the grassroots members – and wants everyone to look at how can we support our counties to offer more support to our clubs. She wants to encouraging members to gain the most they can from their membership, and to ensure that members know how they can utilise the skills they gain through YFC.

HT wants to see a sense of family in YFC and the surrounding community, and she would like everyone to continue to support the Rural+ Campaign.

As a personal challenge HT is going to run the Morrison's Great Birmingham Half Marathon and she wants to make this a huge YFC event and get as many members as possible running the Marathon and raising funds for their chosen charities, and hopes that this will give YFC as much publicity cover as possible. The event is being ALL

held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and members need to get onto the race website and entry. HT would then like members to email her and let know of your intention to enter and details of your charity so that this can be mapped for the day. [hannah.talbot@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:hannah.talbot@nfyfc.org.uk) HT has also set up a Twitter address for the event at #HannahsDashers.

c/15/46 With no further business HT thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 2.00pm

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

Hannah Talbot – Chair of Council