



Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Sunday 21st February 2016, at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry CV5 9BA

Present: Miss Hannah Talbot (Chair of Council), Mr Chris Manley (Vice Chair of Council) Miss Jessica Townson (Vice Chair of Council) members & Guests as recorded in the Attendance Book.

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

	Actioned By
<p>c/16/01 1. Welcome – HT welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2016 NFYFC Council, and noted that the meeting was well attended in support of the new officer team to be elected later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>c/16/02 HT asked council to use their votes wisely. HT outlined to council the format for the meeting and noted that depending on how the voting procedures go she may take the agenda in a different order.</p>	
<p>c/16/03 HT noted that following the proposer/seconded presentations for Chair and Vice Chair nominations there would be an opportunity for a Q&A with the nominees and this will be limited to 5 minutes. Voting will take place using the single transferable voting system.</p>	
<p>c/16/04 HT outlined to council members the purpose of the council and the important of communicating the meeting back to YFC members at all levels.</p>	
<p>c/16/05 HT noted that whilst the votes are being counted for Chair of Council, Russell Carrington would be giving a short presentation on the Rural Youth Europe.</p>	
<p>c/16/06 Once the results of the Chair and Vice Chairs are known the meeting would move on to elect internal and external co-options to council.</p>	
<p>c/16/07 HT noted that the following tellers were appointed: Chris Lloyd, Robert Blezard, Linda Watts, Louise Brookes, Adrian Willis, Stephen Rogers and Matt Tompkins. Scrutineer for the meeting would be Chris Lloyd.</p>	
<p>c/16/08 HT announced the sad news of the deaths of Mr Douglas Murray – Life Member of NFYFC, also Mr Bill Finney, Eunice Finney's husband, who was a great supporter of the YFC travel programme and Staffordshire FYFC. HT sent condolences to both families.</p>	
<p>c/16/09 HT asks council to congratulate James Eckley on being awarded the Associateship of the Royal Agricultural Societies (ARAgS) and he was presented with his Certificate by the Countess of Wessex at the House of Lords on the 10th February. HT said this is a well deserved award for all James's hard work with NFYFC and previously with HOPS.</p>	
<p>c/16/10 HT Presented Senior Member of The Year competition winner, Laura Elliott with a glass trophy sponsored by TAMA.</p>	
<p>c/16/11 2. Apologies for absence were recorded in the attendance book with the addition of Roy Boreham, Charlie Polak, Phil Debenham and Georgina Monk.</p>	
<p>c/16/12 3. Diary Update: Chair & Vice Chairs & Chief Officer – HT noted that the officers diaries had been circulated. HT noted the busy diaries and highlighted meetings with the 5 Nations, and attendance at the St George's House Consultation discussing Youth Sector Reform with members of the Youth Forum, and attending the Food & Farming Awards. HT noted that there have been many invitations received from the clubs and counties and the officer team have tried their best to get to as many events as they could.</p>	
<p>c/16/13 4. To confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting (Sunday 25th October 2015– paper no 174-15-A refers) The minutes were then signed by HT as a true and correct record, Proposed by Jess Townson and seconded by Mark Curr.</p>	
<p>c/16/14 5. Any Matters arising from those Minutes – none raised.</p>	

C/16/15 **6. Election of Officers of the 2016/17 NFYFC Council:**

C/16/16 **6.1 NFYFC Chair of Council 2016/17 –**

Nomination for Chris Manley

HT called upon Jake Henson and Laura Elliott to propose and second the nomination for Chris Manley. In summary - Jake highlighted Chris's YFC membership which began with Culm Valley YFC in Devon where he has competed in many competitions and attended many events. He has helped to organise the Devon Comedy Event and YFC Balls. He was elected Club Leader with Culm Valley which had over 90 members; Chris visits his club whenever he can. At Harper Adams University, Chris was elected Student President. Within YFC he has been on many trips including the European Rally, trip to India and has represented NFYFC in Europe at CEJA. Chris is a Henry Plumb Scholar. Chris is a dedicated and loyal member of YFC, always willing to listen to the members and to take forward fresh ideas. Chris's commitment is unquestionable travelling all over the country in his role as vice-chair and Jake is sure that this would continue should he be chair of council. We all know the rhyme 'The Milky Bar Kid is strong and tough and only the best is good enough' and that is what Chris will do. He will give it his best effort because he would not settle for anything less. Jake asked council to follow him for voting Chris Manley as Chair of NFYFC Council.

C/16/17 Laura Elliott addressed council and was honoured to be seconding that Chris Manley be elected Chair of council for 2016/17. In summary Laura has known Chris for the past 4 years and he is the cream of the crop from Culm Valley YFC. He has the age and experience to take on this role; he is passionate about the future of farming and the next generation of farmers. He attended the European Rally in 2014. He regularly visits the members in Wales YFC and has shown his dedication to the members, attending and promoting the rural agricultural discussions groups. Chris has YFC in his blood and Laura has no hesitation in seconding the election of Chris Manley for Chair of Council.

Nomination for Jessica Townson

C/16/18 HT called upon Mark Hurst and Lisa Hawkins to propose and second the nomination – In summary Mark addressed council and believes that Jess is the ideal person to take the Federation forward. Jess has held officer positions in her YFC club Bolton-by-Bowland, county of Lancashire and Northern Area. She has travelled all over the country meeting YFC members, stewarding and judging competitions as well as competing herself for Bolton-by-Bowland YFC. Jess has given external talks to the Rotary Club and WI helping to promote young farmers wherever she goes, and has attended many open days in schools and colleges. With the Welsh Federation she has completed a charity climb of Scarfell Pike. Jess is still in membership age and can relate to the grass root members and is in her last year of competing age. Mark urged council to join with him in voting for Jess as Chair of Council for 2016/17.

C/16/19 Lisa addressed council and in summary was honoured to second the proposal with no hesitation she gives her total support for Jess. Jess has held positions in her own YFC Club, County and Northern Area. She has travelled the country attending meetings and AGM's and connecting with the members at all levels. She has judged at County Rallies including a trip to the Isle of Man, and has also competed herself in Senior Member of Year and lastly debating & ultimate Frisbee competitions in March this year, there is no end to her talents! Lisa knows that Jess will give it her all, she is approachable, trustworthy and reliable and the members have every confidence in her, and will go on to lead members to the best of her ability taking the federation forward in the coming year. Lisa urged council to vote with her in seconding the election for Jessica Townson as Chair of Council for 2016/17.

C/16/20 HT asked council if they had any questions they wished to put to the two candidates:

C/16/21 Amy McWhirter (Youth Forum) asked the candidates their ages and what they could bring to the members aged 10 – 26? CM noted that he was 31 years of age and still gets asked for ID! He has been connected with YFC for the past 15 years, he has always listened to the membership and he would continue to represent them in the next year.

Jess noted that she is 26 years of age and in her last year of competing. She noted that at the last AGM there

was a Motion proposed to put the membership to 30, although this did not go through she thinks that the members do like to see members in key roles that are within membership age. Jess will be the voice of the members and keep close links with the YFC clubs.

Mark Curr (Cumbria) addressed a question to CM and asked if there would be any conflicts of interest with his current employers Sainsbury's when questions are raised with Defra and the future of farming. CM noted that they are all part of the supply chain and there may be time when he must remain independent. Where there are any conflicts, he would refer issues to the NFYFC Chair of AGRI to give the member's views, but at the same time give his 100% support whenever possible.

HT asked council to complete their single transferable voting papers and where possible to give a 1st and 2nd choice for the position of chair of council.

C/16/22 **Rural Youth Europe** – HT invited Russell Carrington to discuss with council the role of the Rural Youth Europe and his proposal to council. RC noted that the Rural Youth Europe is an umbrella organisation, made up of 18 Countries around Europe. They hold key events which take the form of a Rally and Seminars sharing ideas and learning different cultures. The RYE board have an office in Helsinki. RYE comes under the YFC Travel programme within the Personal Development Steering Group.

RC noted that he has been an YFC member in Herefordshire for 13 years and has been Chair of the AGRI Steering Group. In August of this year RC has the exciting opportunity to stand as Chair of RYE, and needs the backing of this council and NFYFC to be his sponsors.

Claire Worden addressed council and noted that RC had worked as part of the team delivering the Autumn Seminar at Malvern and noted the huge respect members have for him; he enjoys a challenge and understands the way young people work. She has no hesitation is proposing that the NFYFC Council formally proposes RC for the position of RYE Chair.

Sam Dilcock seconded the proposal. Council voted and approved Russell Carrington to be put forward for chair of Rural Youth Europe and instructed the Chief Officer to write the required letters of sponsors on behalf of NFYFC Council.

HT noted that whilst council was waiting for the announcement of the new chair of council she would take the report from the Events & Marketing Steering Group.

C/16/23 **Report to Council from the Events & Marketing Steering Group (Caroline Baker)**

CB noted that she had been elected as chair of Steering Group and Katie Hall elected as vice chair.

CB confirmed that Ben Robinson, Ben Cavill and Ben Westwood had been elected as co-options of Steering Group.

CB noted that the steering group have looked at its own aims and objectives and is looking at ways to integrate with other steering groups and share expertise.

CB confirmed that feedback was received about the YFC Ski trip and communicated to NUCO, who have taken information on board in preparation for 2017 trip to Val Thorens.

CB noted that the Val Thorens ski trip is confirmed for 7th-14th January 2017 and will be launched at the Annual Convention.

CB noted that feedback has been received about 'National Young Farmers' Week'. 2016's week is confirmed for 19th-25th September.

CB noted that the official merchandise for Annual Convention has been agreed and will be printed in due course.

CB noted that the steering group are looking at entertainment acts for Torquay in 2017, if anyone has any suggestions put them on an email to her or the office.

CB noted that this year's entertainment will be Giles Barr, Scott Mills, Chris Stark, the Party Rocker Band, Duke and Ipop.

CB noted that the steering group are looking at the communications channels to Council members, Area Chairs, County Chairs and senior members and county staff. Looking at dividing channels of communication, with Once Weekly being a dedicated communication to County Staff and a new publication for Council and County/Area chairs.

CB noted that the group will be working alongside the Personal Development Steering Group to come up with ideas to help celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June of this year.

Sam Dilcock asked if the 2017 convention would be in Torquay. CB confirmed that it would.

c/16/24 Item 6.1 resumed HT announced the result of the single transferable voting for the chair of council and was pleased to confirm that Chris Manley received **39 votes** against Jess Townson with **28 votes**. Chris Manley was duly elected chair of council for 2016/17. HT noted that she has never know so much interest in the voting procedure and commiserated with Jess as there was always going to be winners and losers in this process.

c/16/25 **6.2 Two x NFYFC Vice Chairs of Council 2015/17** – HT noted that there were three candidates for two places as vice chair: *these would be taken in alphabetical order*; Caroline Baker (County Durham), Ed Ford (Essex) and Lynsey Martin (Kent).

c/16/26 HT called upon Rachel Milner and Katie Davie to propose and second the nomination of Caroline Baker for vice chair of council.

c/16/27 Rachel Milner addressed council and in summary noted that Caroline Baker is from Stockton YFC in County Durham. Caroline has taken part in many competitions including public speaking and won The Sidney Fawcett Trophy at the NFYFC Annual General Meeting. She has taken on many roles including vice chair and is press officer for her club. Caroline will be the voice of the members she has experience, outstanding personality and works for the NFU in Sedgefield. As well as being busy with work and YFC events she still tries to help out with the family farm, looking for lost sheep before rushing off to an YFC do in the evening. Caroline is determined, enthusiastic and will be visionary and Rachel had no hesitation in proposing that Caroline Baker be elected vice chair of council for 2016/17.

c/16/28 Katie Davies addressed council and in summary seconded the nomination that Caroline Baker be elected vice chair of council. Katie noted that Caroline had held all aspects of YFC at club, county and Northern Area. In 2013 she joined the Events Steering Group as a co-option and went on to be her vice chairman, and yesterday she was elected chairman of the group, where she has come up with some excellent ideas to take the membership forward. Caroline gives 110% to YFC and Katie has no hesitation in asking council to join with her in voting Caroline Baker vice chair of council for 2016/17.

c/16/29 HT invited Sam Dilcock and Hew Willett to propose and second the nomination for Edward Ford

c/16/30 Sam Dilcock addressed council in summary and said with Ed 'What you see is what you get'. Sam first met Ed when he came to council. Ed comes from an arable farming background and sits on the AGRI Steering Group; he knows how to deal with farming issues and takes a keen interest in best practise. Sam has no hesitation in proposing Ed for Vice Chair as he is a rural leader and an active member of Essex YFC sitting on many committees for his club, county. This year he is Area Chairman and is also Eastern and South East Area Representative on the Board of Management. Sam noted Ed's good work with Forageaid, and noted that he has been nominated a 'Farming Hero' by Farmers Guardian. Ed has also completed the Three Peaks Challenge. Ed will represent the members and do whatever they want him to do. Sam encouraged council to join with him in electing Ed Ford as Vice Chair of Council for 2016/17.

c/16/31 Hew Willett addressed council to second the nomination for Ed Ford and in summary and noted that council will have read Ed's Biography and all his good work with Forageaid and the Essex County Show and his many facets. Hew noted that Ed joined Essex YFC 9 years ago and has progressed to now being a representative on the Board of Management. Hew noted that Ed will give 100% and is totally dedicated to the role and has so much to offer the Federation and urged council to join with him and vote Ed Ford as

Vice Chair of Council for 2016/17.

C/16/32 HT called upon Rachel Parker and James Hutchinson to propose and second Lynsey Martin for the nomination of vice chair of council.

C/16/33 Rachel Parker addressed council and in summary Rachel introduced herself to council as the new elected vice chair of competitions. She was honoured to propose Lynsey Martin for vice chair of council and first met Lynsey when she was elected AGRI Chair. Lynsey had held positions in her club and county and is Kent's show representative. Lynsey is keen to use all her past experience to help her Kent members including the school clubs. As AGRI Chair Lynsey represents young farmers with a high profile, she has appeared on television to discuss the milk prices and she is fantastic supporting AGRI to the wider leaders and embracing the role in her capable hands. Rachel asked council to join with her in electing Lynsey as vice chair of council for 2016/17.

C/16/34 James Hutchinson addressed council to second the proposal for Lynsey Martin, in summary, James has known Lynsey for the past two years when she has been vice, then chair of AGRI. He has enjoyed having some heated discussions with her on several issues and she always holds her own in a debate. Lynsey always supports the grass root members being the voice of AGRI in meetings with the NFU, TFA, CLA and FFA. These organisations do not always see 'eye to eye' and at these meetings Lynsey has a very professional manner, she always keeps a level head and is the voice of NFYFC. James knows that if elected Lynsey will do a good job as vice chair of council representing the members wherever she can and she gets the full support of Wiltshire Young Farmers as James seconds this proposal.

C/16/35 HT asked council if there were any questions to put to the candidates; Natalie Moore asked Ed Ford as Essex FYFC are primarily members between the ages of 18 – 30, how did he feel about representing the younger members? Ed noted that he would endeavour to do as much as he can for the 10 – 26 members. I he would encourage the junior members to have a voice at council.

C/16/36 HT called council to vote using the single transferable voting system and to try and put all three names in preference order.

C/16/37 **7. Election of Co-options (Maximum 16 places)** – Council voted and approved the following members as individual and organisation co-options, all 16 places have now been filled.

<i>Individual Co-options approved at February NFYFC Council</i>	<i>Organisation Co-options approved at February 2016 meeting of NFYFC Council</i>
1. Russell Carrington	1. The Worshipful Company of Farmers
2. Claire Worden	2. National Farmers Union (NFU)
3. Caroline Trude	3. Farm Crisis Network (FCN)
4. Ben Robinson	4. NFU Mutual
5. Joy Davenport	5. British Youth Council
6. Charlotte Middlebrook	
7. Laura Elliott	
8. Laura Sumner	
9. Josh Fincham	
10. Katie Wainwright	
11. Amy Mahoney	

C/16/38 Chris Lloyd addressed council and noted that there has been a query raised with one of the seconder for the election of chair of council who is not a full council member. Therefore, in the interest of good faith and integrity of the federation the first voting procedure for the chair of council was deemed null and void, and the voting for this position would be re-run using the single transferable voting system.

C/16/39

C/16/40 The proposer and seconders were as following: For Chris Manley – proposer Jake Henson, seconder Katie Davies, and for Jess Townson – proposer Mark Hurst and seconder Lisa Hawkins.

C/16/41 HT noted that whilst the votes were counted, council would take the report from the Personal

Development Steering Group delivered by Mark Hurst.

MH noted that the Personal Development Steering Group have nothing for council to approve.

MH was pleased to confirm that he had been elected as the Chairman of the PD steering group and Laura Sumner was elected as his vice.

MH noted that PD would like to write to the government in relation to Child Licenses and will liaise with the competitions steering group.

MH noted that PD will support the National Council for Voluntary Youth Service's (NCVYS) Stop, Look and Listen safeguarding campaign on the 29th February 2016.

MH noted that PD will circulate information regarding the canal boat project to counties in central England.

MH noted that PD has reviewed their budgets.

MH confirmed that PD will be working with the Northern Area and the Isle of Man to allow members on the island to complete the Train the Trainer course. Members that travel with the YFC Travel programme will be reminded to read the rules of the multimedia competition to avoid disqualification.

MH noted that the group have discussed the new format of Skype interviews for Travel selection day that took place in 2015. They will address the teething problems and run it in this format again in 2016.

MH noted that the group have looked at the trips on offer in the travel programme and volunteering options available. The group decided to run volunteering trip destinations on a three year rotation of Argentina 2017, India 2018, and Jamaica 2019.

MH noted that the group will be working with Africa's Gift to coordinate a new volunteering trip for the travel programme.

MH confirmed that PD will be working with the Youth Forum to pilot an U21's trip to the USA with the potential of adding to the YFC travel programme in future.

MH confirmed that the 'YFC Travel booklet' will be completed by the end of March.

MH noted that PD will be looking at developing top tips to help Curve delivery.

MH was pleased to note that the NatWest Cash Management courses have received excellent feedback from the counties.

MH noted that an E-safety training is planned for the 16th March, at the YFC Office in Stoneleigh Park.

MH noted that the County Chairman's weekend was a great success and will be repeated on the 12-13th November 2016.

MH noted that the PD group are looking at the creation of a set of national club standard awards – this will help counties support and strengthen weaker clubs within the counties.

MH noted that the PD group will look at launching the Club Health Check in 2016.

MH noted that the PD steering group are excited to officially launch the 'Countryside Challenge', a Youth Social Action Project, funded by the Cabinet Office and Pears Foundation.

MH noted that the PD group need to identify eight more youth social action projects by the **end of March** – if your club is or wants to do a community project please let us know ASAP!

MH noted that the PD group are looking into the creation of a club programme ideas hub for planning programmes.

MH noted that the PD group are working on a members 'wellbeing' area for the registration session at the Annual Convention and to offer support to members throughout the weekend.

MH noted that the PD group will be working on the Behaviour and Safeguarding policies.

MH noted that the PD group and the Events Steering group are working on encouraging clubs to get involved with the Queen's 90th birthday. One suggestion has been to link up with RABI and to light a Beacon, but more information will be coming out.

c/16/42 Announcement on Election of Chair of Council – HT confirmed to council that the voting for the chair of council had produced identical results, and therefore Chris Manley was duly elected chair of council for 2016/2017.

c/16/43 HT noted to council that whilst they were waiting for the vice chair results, Claire Worden on behalf of the Board of Management would address council on the issue of Members Behaviour.

c/16/44 CW addressed council and noted that in 2013 the national officers spoke to council about standards of behaviour across the federation following the creation of the 'YFC Exposed' page on Facebook. This page had highlighted the very worst our federation had to offer in terms of behaviour in a public space.

c/16/45 CW noted that it is worry that incidents of unsuitable behaviour have increased significantly in 2015.

C/16/46 CW noted that these incidents usually take place at events where alcohol is involved; this means that volunteers, county staff and national staff then take up a considerable amount of time addressing these conduct issues. Following on from this NFYFC have created a 'Behaviour Policy' which is currently with counties for consultation. We will aim to create a consistent and fair way of addressing appropriate behaviour to support our county staff. We need to get over to our members the consequences of poor behaviour.

C/16/47 CW asked council to speak to their members about behaviour. To look at why people are behaving in this way and to discuss with your members how these issues could have been avoided. CW stressed that we need to ensure that members know what the consequences will be. CW noted that NFYFC work closely with the Police and Licensing Authorities especially at annual convention in order to protect the organisation's reputation, and we as council must take this seriously.

C/16/48 **Report to Council from the Youth Forum Steering Group**

C/16/49 HT called Amy McWhiter to deliver the report from the Youth Forum Steering Group

Amy McWhiter (Lancashire) addressed council and noted that she has been voted as the chair of the Youth forum with Alice Longmire (Cumbria) as her vice chair.

AMcW noted that Forum members are working locally to encourage younger members to be confident and feel valued within the YFC structure.

AMcW noted that the 'Watch that Cowpat!' games are now in the majority of areas for use by county federations to support the Youth Forum in their focus to improve knowledge of where food comes from. Three spare games will be held at NFYFC in case of county date clashes.

AMcW noted that the Youth Forum will be supporting the promotion of the Open Farm Sunday Day on the 5th June – she asked all council to encourage your county members to look at ways they can support this day and potentially use it as an YFC recruitment event.

AMcW noted that the Youth Forum will continue to work with the Yellow Wellies Campaign, attending shows and events as farm safety ambassadors – look out for them across the county!

AMcW noted that the Youth Forum are engaged with the British Youth Council to ensure that the needs of YFC members are heard at a national level – this year their focus will be Safety in the workplace (agriculture and rural) and access to agricultural careers advice in schools.

AMcW confirmed that the Youth Forum will be working with Areas (and the counties within them) to support them to pilot U18 area weekends for younger members.

AMcW noted that the Youth Forum is working on resources to support the development and continuation of county youth forums.

C/16/50 **Election of Vice Chairs of Council** – HT confirmed to council that Lynsey Martin and Ed Ford had been duly elected vice chair of council for 2016/17. HT commiserated with Caroline Baker and wished her luck as chair of the Events and Marketing Steering Group.

C/16/51 HT invited Jess Townson to say a few parting words, JT wished the new team the best of luck and she had enjoyed her time as vice chair of council, attending so many events and meeting with the members. We were looking forward to going back to Northern Area, her County and her Club to give them more support.

C/16/52 HT invited CM/EF/LM to take the top table, HT presented CM with his Chain of Office. HT addressed council with her closing speech – HT gave the highlights of her past three years in office, she had enjoyed working with Milly Wastie and supporting her to interrogate processes, and she urged council to continue to debate and be the voice of the members. She had enjoyed meeting the members and attending events across the country. During her term of office there have been issues to debate, lots of coverage in the industry press, on Countryfile, covering issues with the Dairy and milk crisis and she congratulated the members for their support in the recent floods during the year. YFC is always out there helping people and raising so much money for charity.

C/16/53 HT noted her challenge for the year #Hannahsdashers and congratulated the 31 members who supported in doing the Birmingham Marathon, having checked afterwards she was pleased to confirm that the total monies raised from 31 participants was £10,000. HT noted that it should not go unnoticed the

significant amount of monies other YFC clubs and counties raised for charity and the list of charities is endless.

C/16/54 HT highlighted her trip to America for the Future Farmers Conference and enjoyed meeting so many interesting people and representing the federation.

C/16/55 HT thanked her steering group chairs for their support and presented them with colouring books and pencils. HT thanked her retiring vice chairs and presented them with gifts.

C/16/56 HT thanked CW in her role as ex-officio chair for all her friendship and support. HT thanked FC and the board of management for their continued support and especially thanked James Eckley for his support and guidance during her year.

C/16/57 HT noted that she has been asked the question 'How do you do it all?' HT replies that she had done it with a great support team and she does it all for the 24,000 young members and wonderful NFYFC which has given her so much over the years. She has been so proud to be National Chair and would urge any members to go ahead and take on the role, it really is fantastic. Thank you to you all.

C/16/58 CM presented HT with a gift from NFYFC and Council on behalf of all the members.

C/16/59 Chris Manley took the chair of the meeting.

C/16/60 CM invited Sam Dilcock to deliver the report from the AGRI Steering Group.

C/16/61 **Report to council from the AGRI Steering Group**

SD asked council to approve that NFYFC wishes to add its name to supporting the BVD free statement of intent for England. Council voted and approved this action.

SD noted that he had been elected chair of the AGRI steering group, together with Harriet Wilson who would be his vice chair. SD confirmed that Co-options would be Charlotte Johnston; Jock Muirhead; and Charlotte Middlebrook, together with NFU rep: James Hutchinson, Deputy rep: Harriet Wilson, and CEJA reps: Charlotte Johnston; Tom Wells; Catherine Bennett. CLA rep: Tom Wells, LEAF rep: Lynsey Martin and Ed Ford, TRIG: Becky Heal, Fresh Start Land Enterprise reps: Caroline Trude and Russell Carrington - Russell to attend an advisory meeting on February 22.

SD noted that at the AGRI Forum to be held on Saturday 7th May in Blackpool, the Theme will be '**Living for today – striving for tomorrow!**' which he would chair. SD confirmed that speakers for the Forum; Matthew Naylor; Alan Jagoe; Professor Jan Godsell. SD noted that there would be an additional Brexit Debate in collaboration with EurActiv (EU media): 'Is the reformed CAP the future of farming? Have your say!' Following the forum. SD encouraged council to attend and to pass on this information to their members.

SD noted that CEJA activities have continued and members have contributed to ongoing CEJA topics.

SD noted that AGRI members have been contributing to Defra's 25 Year Plan in a series of workshops and discussions.

SD noted that AGRI representatives gave evidence at the House of Lords on managing price volatility.

SD noted that there will be an NFU Westminster office and House of Commons visit is currently being planned, more details will follow on these.

SD noted that AGRI have received some correspondence from a group member suggesting ways in which the NFYFC development plans and AGRI structure could be altered in the future to better serve its purpose.

SD confirmed that AGRI have acknowledged and discussed the points in the letter.

SD noted that Environmental awareness and apprenticeships will be further points highlighted in the AGRI manifesto.

SD noted that AGRI have discussed the proposed march by Farmers for Action and considered advice for those who wished to take part which included:

Good behaviour as the media will be present and targeting young farmers in particular.

Principles of Young Farmers – hard-working, stewards of the countryside who wish to be paid fairly for their work.

Educating ourselves as an industry to ensure that we have taken steps to manage times of low prices. Educating our consumers and retailers on the value of our products.

Comply with the law regarding march restrictions.

Be aware of your responsibilities as an YFC member.

C/16/62 CM invited Oonagh O'neill to deliver the report from the Competitions Steering Group

C/16/63 **Report to council from the Competitions Steering Group**

OO'N asked council to approve that for the 2016/17 performing arts competition, the price of tickets will be increased from £10.00 to £12.00 for adults, and from £5.00 to £7.00 for concessions. Council approved this increase.

OO'N noted that she has been elected as chair of the competitions steering group and Rachel Parker would be her vice chair. She also confirmed that the group have elected David Hamer, Claire Worden, and Dewi Parry as co-options to the steering group. David Hamer has been elected as the NFYFC rep to the English Winter Fair committee & Tug of War Association.

OO'N confirmed that there be some "How to Guides" for public speaking competitions produced.

OO'N noted that at the Annual Convention in Blackpool there will be a 6 Darts Challenge held at Registration and steering group members will have a stand to promote competitions including a raffle. Massey Ferguson will continue their support in the form of programmes and trophies for the performing arts and will provide machinery for the Efficiency with Safety competitions.

OO'N noted that following the increased interest in the English Winter Fair last year: NFYFC will be allocated 100 tickets for the Young Farmers supper on the Saturday night.

OO'N noted that no admission tickets will be produced for the Northern and Southern Regional Finals. It will be pay on the door only. Pre paid tickets will only be applicable for the National Finals in Blackpool.

OO'N noted some 2016/2017 Rules to note changes as follows; Beef Live and Carcase competitors will be requested to classify live beef in the competition.

Junior Stockman of the Year: the age will now be changed from Under 16 to Under 18.

It was noted that Cheerleading and Street Dancing will be the entertainment competitions for the 2016/17 membership year with the finals held at Annual Convention Torquay in 2017.

Council to consider if a small charge can be made to members who have purchased an entertainments wristband for the Annual Convention in order to watch the performing arts competitions in 2017.

C/16/01 All Counties to note that the Tug of War Association always hold their championships on the 3rd week in June and YFC County Federations are advised to avoid ToW competitions that weekend – as there will be a shortage of qualified judges.

C/16/02 CM called upon Frank Chester to deliver the report from the Board of Management

FC asked council to approve that the board would like to propose that the Levy for membership subscriptions from 1st September 2016, be increased by 3% (which equates to 46p per member), subject to the membership figures remaining the same. (Council were issued with a levy break-down schedule at the meeting). Council noted that this increase would bring in an additional £10,000. They also noted that if the membership numbers were increased then there may not be any increase in costs to the membership. Council voted and this proposal was carried with one vote against.

FC asked council to note that the board have approved the NFYFC Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2015 (copies have been circulated to council today).

FC noted that the Board will review any motions for the NFYFC AGM received by deadline and will issue a second draft AGM agenda inviting any amendments motions from YFC clubs and county federations.

Thereafter the BoM has appointed a subgroup to approve the final agenda for the AGM meeting.

FC noted that the board wish to congratulate the Steering Group committees, Officers and NFYFC Staff team for their hard work in reducing the deficit budget down to (£23,726), against the forecast deficit of (£224,000).

NFYFC wish to especially thank the Directors of HOPS Labour Solutions Limited for their donation of £10,000.

FC confirmed that the board have approved the NFYFC 2016 Budget (tabled at this meeting of Council for information) and discussed with Steering Group yesterday.

FC noted that the board have agreed to continue to use the services of Grant Thornton as accountant/auditors and will request a quote from them for 2016. A Tender process will be carried out to appoint Auditors for the 2017 financial year.

FC confirmed that the board wish to continue to support CEJA with support from the NFU for this current

year.

FC confirmed that the board will continue to provide the NFU Employment Service for a further year at a reduced cost to NFYFC.

FC noted that the Governance Review Group (a sub group of the BoM) will be examine the Terms of Office for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, and also term of office for the Chair of Council, and will report back at the June meeting with future proposals, if any.

C/16/03 CM referred council to the letter received from Charlotte Johnston (copies were circulated to those present). SD noted that AGRI will be making a response to Charlotte. FC noted that at the time the new AGRI Officer was appointed, NFYFC were faced with a large deficit budget and it was not in a position to make a permanent appointment, hence the 12 months fixed term contract was made. Going forward the board has agreed to make this position a permanent role. SD noted that the Steering group does not wish to see any break-away by older YFC members as a separate body. Toby France –Warwickshire noted that Charlotte has written as a member of Warwickshire, but this county have had no part in putting this letter together.

C/16/04 CM confirmed that he will be responding to Charlotte on behalf of council and will meet with here as well.

C/16/05 **Dates of Future Council Meetings** – CM confirmed that the next meetings will be held on Sunday 26th June 2016 and Sunday 23rd October 2016.

C/16/06 **Council Members Fares Pool** – Council discussed in detail the proposed Council Members Fares Pool allowance. CM noted that this long established system brought great equality to all county federations wherever they are in England and Wales. The mechanism allows every county federation to contribute the same sum of money (per council place) into a pool to reimburse travel to council meetings.

C/16/07 The proposal put to council was to reduce the council fares pool rate from 24p down to 18p based on independent figures (published by the AA). This would in turn bring the contribution to the fund to £155 per council place from county federations.

C/16/08 Some members felt that they were being paid too much for their journey – they we currently receiving more expense reimbursement than the fuel costs, and they felt uncomfortable making any profit out of the scheme. Others said they were running vehicles took far more than 18 p per mile to run.

C/16/09 CM referred to the paper, especially the section concerning the ‘average’ vehicles used to establish costs per mile.

C/16/10 The proposal to reduce the mileage rate to 18p per mile was proposed by: Jake Henson and seconded by Toby France. Council voted and the proposal was carried.

C/16/11 **Any Other Relevant Business**

C/16/12 Board Representative for Eastern & South East Areas – CM noted that now that Ed Ford has been elected vice chair of council there is a vacant position for a new rep on the board for these areas. Nominations will be taken at the June meeting.

C/16/13 **Motion for the Annual General Meeting – Sunday 8th May 2016.** FC recommended to council that Mr Robert Blezard be put forward for a Life Vice President of NFYFC for his services to Young Farmers. Proposal Frank Chester, seconder Jess Townson, Council voted and approved this Motion to go forward at the AGM.

C/16/14 **NFYFC Trustee** – FC confirmed to council that Mr Julian Sayers – Chair of the NFYFC Trustees will be standing down at the 2017 Annual General Meeting in Torquay, and the board will be looking for a suitable candidate to replace Julian.

C/16/15 **Closing Remarks** – CM noted that the officer team were looking forward to an exciting year ahead; they will always be available to listen to the member’s views. CM has three main topics in his manifesto; The Blood Donation Campaign, refreshing the club exchange programme and encouraging member involvement in YFC discussion groups. Ed and Lynsey are looking forward to their year. CM asked all

members of Council - when you go out and if you see an YFC shirt go over and speak to that member and talk to them about NFYFC and YFC Clubs.

C/16/16 With no further business Chris Manley thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at: 2.40pm.

Signed
Chris Manley (Chair of Council)

Dated:.....