



**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Sunday 26th June 2016,
at The Quality Hotel, Allesley Coventry CV5 9BA**

Present: Mr Chris Manley (Chair of Council), Mr Edward Ford (Vice Chair of Council) Miss Lynsey Martin (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**

C/16/17 **1. Welcome –**

CM welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for making the effort as there were so many other events taking place over the weekend in Northern Area, South West Area and Wales.

CM welcomed the following visiting exchangees Elizabeth Hintersteiner – Austria, Lauren Vance – Northern Ireland Morgan Mitchell – Canada 4H, Shannen Vance – Northern Ireland, Marina Raming – Germany, and Bettina Born-Switzerland, Christian FleBner – Germany and hoped that they all enjoy their stay with our members.

CM welcomed Poul Christensen – NFYFC President.

CM appointed Jon & Anne Sarsfield as tellers for the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence were recorded in the attendance book and noted as :

Delme Harries	Jess Townson	Laura Green	Carmel McCormack	Mary Bailey
Katie Davies	Laura Elliott	Rachel Milner	Charlotte Middlebrook	Michael Wood
Rod Tuck	Morys Ioan	Tom Wells	Arwel Jones	Hannah Talbot
Natasha Hoggard	Paige Dalby	Eleanor Smale	Andrew Smith	Vicky Hope
Caroline Trude	Charlie Willett	Ben Cavill	Harry Cole	Fran Smart
Mel Sanderson	Rachel Branch	Linda Watts	Rebecca Horner	Kate Wainwright
Ben Bakel				

3. Diary Update: Chair & Vice Chairs & Chief Officer – Copies of the Officers diary update was circulated at the meeting. CM noted that 24 hrs after being elected the officers were at the NFU Conference where 70 to 80 of our members attended. CM/EF had attended a successful Ulster AGM with members of the 5 nations. Officers, Steering Group Chairs, Frank, James, Poul and Margaret Christensen represented YFC at The Patron's Lunch in London to mark the Queen's 90th birthday celebration. CM presented Mark Hurst with an YFC tie, as he presented his own tie to Prince Harry during The Patron's lunch royal family walkabout. CM has recently visited a school of 40 children with the 'Watch That Cowpat' game looking at 'where our food comes from'.

EF noted that he has attended the Cereals Show, several county shows and rallies including competitions in Northern Area and Eastern Area.

LM has attended the Northern Area field activities, and one of her highlights was to see Brockhill School bringing a Level 3 NVQ being countrywide and agriculture into their school curriculum. CM noted that the offices will attend as many events as they can and they look forward to receiving more invitations.

C/16/18 **4. To confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting (Sunday 21st February 2016 – paper no 009-16-A refers)** The minutes were then signed by Chris Manley as a true and correct record, Proposed by Sam Dilcock and seconded by Josh Fincham.

C/16/19 **5. Any Matters arising from those Minutes** – none raised.

C/16/20 **6. Young Farmers, Proud To Donate** – CM thanked all the members who had supported him with his #YFClifeblood campaign. CM introduced Tracy Beard (TB) from the NHS Blood Service who gave a detailed presentation to council. CM noted that Sam Conway will be sending out the presentation for all members to see. TB highlighted an overview of the launch of a new partnership between YFC with the NHS Blood

and Transplant Services. The aims of the partnership are; to challenge Young Farmers to consider blood and organ donations; to recruit 500 new blood and organ donors in 2016; and to increase awareness of and support for blood and organ donation.

C/16/21 TB noted to council CM's official statement; "Blood and organ donation doesn't cost the individual anything more than their time but it has the potential to make a huge amount of difference to local communities, and doing good things like this in the local community will help to put Young Farmers on the map. It would be great to see all YFC county federations get behind this partnership and compete with each other to register the most donors and help save the most lives!"

C/16/22 TB outlined how you can donate blood and the common criteria are which are checked before donating. TB gave council the details on how to book appointments and what happens during the donating process. TB noted how the blood that is donated is used and details of the blood groups and the percentage donor population of this group and percentage issued to the hospitals.

C/16/23 TB gave details of the organ donation service with some useful percentages, and the research carried out and the benefits of organ donation and what parts of the body can be donated, together with some other myths and misconceptions. TB stressed the need to discuss your wishes with family members who can still override your decision to be a donor, so it is important to talk this through. TB noted some real life stories.

C/16/24 CM thanked TB for her presentation and hoped that as many members as possible could get to see the power point presentation and to support the campaign going forward.

C/16/25 **Rural Youth Europe** – CM noted that following the referendum results announced on Friday, the RYE has spoken with JCE to say that that RYE Board have held an initial discussion on Friday morning about the Referendum outcome, and that just now the membership status of the 5 Nations of YFC in UK and Ireland will remain unchanged – there are already RYE member countries from outside of the EU and RYE is working to continue that model for the UK and N Ireland. Differing arrangements for funding (Erasmus Plus) may emerge from Brussels in due course and that will be discussed.

C/16/26 CM noted that following the February meeting, JCE and CM have now formally nominated Russell Carrington for the position of Chair of the Rural Youth Europe Board. Russ is unopposed, so should be elected to post at the RYE General Assembly (AGM) on Thursday 4th August during the European Rally in Ulster.

C/16/27 CM confirmed that LM and Hannah Talbot will be attending the GA meeting on behalf of the NFYFC. CM is confident that the Council will instruct them to support Russ's nomination.

C/16/28 CM asked for council's permission to leave the voting on other RYE matters to Lynsey and Hannah who will consult with JCE on the items on the agenda, which include:- the election of Vice Chair, Board member of Central Europe, Board Member for Nordic Countries, Board member with Special Interests and Review of the RYE Charter & RYE Membership Guidelines. **Council voted and approved this action.**

C/16/29 RC addressed council and thanked them for all their support and stressed the importance of representing the members and noted that RYT is not a political body, but it has a responsibility to all its' members and RC is looking forward to LM/HT joining him at the meetings in the summer .

C/16/30 **Correspondence** – none received

C/16/31 **Report to council from the Competitions Steering Group – Oonagh O'Neill (OoN)**

C/16/32 OoN asked council to approve the following 5 items:

C/16/33 That there will be a £75 fine will be imposed for those teams taking part in the Fence Erecting that do not dismantle their fence satisfactorily. **Council voted and approved this fine.**

C/16/34 The theme for the 2017/18 competitions programme will be “Magic and Mystery”. **Council voted and approved this theme.**

C/16/35 That the competitions for Annual Convention 2018 will be: Line Dancing (26 & under); Jump Rope (26 & under) **Council voted and approved these competitions.**

C/16/36 The competitions for Competitions Day 2018 will be:

1. The competitions for Competitions Day 2018 will be:

- Situation Vacant (16-21 years)
- Clay Pigeon Shooting (18 & under, 26 & under)
- Cube Exhibit to be replaced by a Craft Demonstration (26 & under, team of 2)
- Efficiency with Safety to be replaced by Workshop skills including tasks in welding, changing a tyre, using a chainsaw and first aid (26 & under, team of 4 including certificates for first aid and chainsaw). Council discussed this item in more detail below and voted separately on this item.
- Dream Machine mood board (26 & under)

Council voted and approved these competitions.

C/16/37 The competitions for Sports Day 2018 will be:

- Mixed Dodgeball (10-16)
- Mixed 7 aside Hockey (16-26);
- Mixed Rounder's (16-26)

Council voted and approved these sports.

C/16/38 CM asked council for any comments on the proposed future competitions. Council discussed in detail the need for gaining a Chain Saw Licence in order to compete. The cost and time for training was highlighted as an issue. It was noted that some counties have concentrated on getting a Licence for ATV in order to compete.

C/16/39 Claire Worden highlighted the need to encourage members to continue up skilling which sometimes members are reluctant to do. Nfyfc needs examine how YFC members can access training and there is now two years to prepare for this competition.

C/16/40 Sam Dilcock highlighted that YFC members do use chain saws, ATVs, and other equipment which they use without any training or certification and YFC has a moral duty to advise them that they should be properly trained and have a certificate when using machines in the workplace.

C/16/41 It was suggested that a Chain Saw company could be approached for some sponsorship and help with future training.

C/16/42 It was noted that the door is not closed to other farm skills coming forward that these competitions could possibly be done on a rota basis.

C/16/43 DH noted that the numbers for Efficiency with Safety have been falling and this competition needs to be supported otherwise it may have to be pulled.

C/16/44 Council voted on item 4 as displayed Efficiency with Safety competition – **This item was approved.**

C/16/45 Council voted on Situation Vacant (16-21 years), Clay Pigeon Shooting (18 & under, 26 & under) and Cube Exhibit - – **These were all approved.**

C/16/46 OoN asked council to note the following items:

C/16/47 The Stockman of the year project 2015-2016 will take the form of an animal health project.

C/16/48 OoN asked council to take back to their areas and counties the following important instructions: *All competition entry forms should be completed via Silo and sent from Counties to Area Event organisers. Area organisers should print these forms and use them as signing in sheets on the day of the competition. Signed entry forms should then be sent directly from the Area Organiser to NFYFC as soon as possible after the Area Event.*

C/16/49 OoN noted that all counties are encouraged to complete a monitoring form by 5th August 2016.

C/16/50 OoN confirmed that coming into effect for 2016-17, the following competitions can be entered alongside one additional competition on the same day:

- *Street Dance and Cheerleading at the Annual Convention*
 - *Senior Member of the Year plus another competition at Annual Convention*
 - *Situations Vacant, Junior Member of the Year and Cube Exhibit plus another competition at Competitions Day*
- Up to a maximum of two competitions on the same day***

C/16/51 Competitions have asked Events and Marketing to communicate the entry form process and look into developing Competitions Day into an Event.

C/16/52 Stewards are still required for Competitions Day and Sports Day this coming weekend, please speak to Oonagh or contact Margaret Bennett at the YFC Centre Stoneleigh.

C/16/53 Clay Pigeon Shooting: A £15 entry fee will be held at Oakedge shooting ground for the Clay Pigeon Shooting competition.

C/16/54 Game Fair tickets for winners of the Clay Pigeon Shooting competition and there will be an open shoot for supporters (turn up on the day, £15 entry).

C/16/55 NFYFC Junior Tug of War age group for 2016/17 will fall in line with the GENSB age range: Between the ages of 12 years of age and over on 1st September 2016 and 17 years of age and under on 1st September 2016.

C/16/56 Efficiency with Safety to be monitored after this year's final. If attendance at the National Final is low, the competition will be removed from the 2016-17 programme.

C/16/57 The announcement of the result of Senior Member of the Year will continue to take place at the Annual General Meeting. The stage interviews will take place during the Performing Arts competition.

C/16/58 Subject to approval from the show organisers, there will be a YFC Sheep Shearing competition (26 & under) at the 2018 Great Yorkshire Show.

C/16/59 The Group would like to thank all stewards in raising £588 for the raffle at Annual Convention

C/16/60 **Report to Council from the Events & Marketing Steering Group (Caroline Baker)**

C/16/61 CB noted that the group had no items for approval and asked council to note the following:

C/16/62 That the Steering Group will be producing a promotional strategy / calendar of activity to support Steering Groups with their marketing needs.

C/16/63 Tickets sales are now open for the 2017 YFC Ski trip to Val Thorens.

c/16/64 YFC Ski trip branded merchandise will be available to buy in due course.

c/16/65 The Steering Group expressed concerns over communications between NFYFC and grassroots members and where it may be failing
The Steering Group are investigating the possibility of a Young Farmers' app and revamping the NFYFC website

c/16/66 The target for Social media target for National Young Farmers' Week is a reach of 800,000

c/16/67 A #CarStickerSelfie competition is being launched now and will run until the end of September

c/16/68 Record ticket sales for Annual Convention (6,500 tickets sold)

c/16/69 Income generated from Annual Convention is £265,000 (£20,000 ahead of target)

c/16/70 CB noted that the event Safety Consultant was positive in his report of health & safety management of the event.

c/16/71 CB confirmed that entertainment acts have been discussed for 2017. CB encouraged council members to go back to their members and ask for suggestions for DJ's and Bands and pass these through your steering group representatives before the end of July as these need to be booked early.

c/16/72 CB confirmed that shortlisting for the Annual Convention 2017 is: "Princes & Princesses", "Around the World" and "Charity shop challenge". CB confirmed that the ticket prices for Annual Convention 2017 to be raised by 1.5%.

c/16/73 CB asked FC and BoM to look into the reason why the receptionist staff at NFYFC had not been invited to attend the annual convention. FC responded to confirm that it was necessary to have the reception at NFYFC covered by a member of staff as there are only 6,000 or the organisations 25,000 members at Blackpool. County officers and other members still call the office with enquiries and also last minutes enquiries concerning convention. It is very important to have someone with that knowledge manning the YFC Centre telephones.

c/16/74 Journey to Blackpool – CB gave council a presentation showing the downside to negative behaviour at the convention. The powerpoint is available for council to show to their members. CB noted that the convention takes 18months of planning with over 2,000 hours. Social media in the run up to the event is positive and CB gave some visual slides showing irresponsible behaviour which resulted in a negative Daily Mail article which reached 4 million people damaging the reputation of the federation. Council agreed that members should be shown the powerpoint and we need to pull this around by showing all the positive things that YFC members do.

c/16/75 **Report to Council from the Personal Development Steering Group (Mark Hurst)**

c/16/76 MH noted that the group had no items for approval and noted the following:

c/16/77 All 2016 YFC Travel trips are now filled and trips are getting underway, 11 exchangees have arrived for the YFC Travel programme and we welcome them to the UK. The Steering Group would like to thank all hosts. Due to a change in immigration rules, NFYFC will need to write a letter of invitation explaining the purpose of the travel for incoming exchangees from Tasmania.

c/16/78 PD have promoted YFC travel and training at Annual Convention and will be at Competitions day on the 2nd July.

C/16/79 Members have reviewed and signed off the travel booklets – the Hosting guide and YFC Travel guide. They are a brilliant resource for Counties and members to use and will be downloadable from the NFYFC website and included in the Source. The group would like to thank Tama for their sponsorship.

C/16/80 MH confirmed that the group have agreed the following travel 2017 programme:

C/16/81 Members reviewed the Africa's Gift trip following the presentation from Ken Dunn and approved that the trips be included in the 2017 programme. Members reviewed both the Projects Abroad trip to Argentina and Outdoor Vibe and chose Projects Abroad, a company that has been used before.

C/16/82 MH confirmed that the YFC Travel Selection day will be held on the 3rd December (majority of interviews by Skype). Closing date for applications is the 11th November. A booklet will be included in Ten26.

C/16/83 MH confirmed that the group have reviewed their budget.

C/16/84 MH noted that the Group had held a good discussion regarding Rural+ and agreed that Trained Trainers should receive training before delivering the course. Members agreed that Rural+, E-safety and Farm Safety will be included in the Curve. They also suggested a workshop on the constitution.

C/16/85 Curve modules will be reviewed ready for November.

C/16/86 PD approved the booking conditions for the 2017 Advanced Trainer course. Information will be out shortly. Train the Trainer is taking place on the 10th-11th September in Wales and 8th-9th October in Eastern Area and Advanced Train the Trainer is taking place on the 29th-30th October in Rugby.

C/16/87 The group would like to encourage counties to tune the Cash Management course with NatWest as feedback has been very good.

C/16/88 The group would like to remind counties to make use of the club officer training plans that are available on the NFYFC Website.

C/16/89 The group reviewed the draft club award scheme and changes will be made using the feedback.

C/16/90 The Group agreed to develop Leader training for Junior Clubs.

C/16/91 The Group discussed the results of the Club Health Check and will work on drawing up action points.

C/16/92 Members are happy to work with East Riding and Buckinghamshire for the Countryside Challenge training sessions.

C/16/93 County Chairman's weekend will be taking place on the 26th – 27th November 2016 at Ilam Hall, Derbyshire.

C/16/94 The Steering Group wish to give prizes to those counties that had 100% response to the Club Health Check.

C/16/95 Watch that Cowpat game is being used throughout the country with area chairs as booking officers. NFYFC have three spare games as a back-up – please take pictures of members using the game and send to NFYFC Communications Officer.

C/16/96 **Report to Council from the Youth Forum Steering Group (Amy McWhirter)**

C/16/97 AMcW noted that there were no items for approval and noted to council the following items:

- C/16/98 The Youth Forum will be working again with Open Farm Sunday in 2017 to promote events and linking YFC with local famers.
- C/16/99 The forum will be supporting the Farm Safety Foundation Yellow Wellies campaign at events throughout the year, spreading the word of farm safety and developing a farm safety Curve module.
- C/16/100 The forum are putting three motions forward to the British Youth Council Manifesto on the areas of Buying British produce, the importance of outdoor spaces for play and the lack of rural transport.
- C/16/101 Following the South West Area model, the East Midlands Area will be running an U18's area weekend in early 2017. Amy visited the Norfolk countryside campout and the forum is working with the Eastern area to plan a weekend in the future.
- C/16/102 The Youth Forum will be producing a resource and video to support the formation/revitalisation of county youth forums to ensure younger members are heard within county.
- C/16/103 The Youth Forum will be looking into a pilot trip to America in summer 2017 with the Future Farmers of America.
- C/16/104 The forum will visit Ulster for their next residential trip in Feb 2017 to build further links with one of our five nations groups.
- C/16/105 **Report to council from the AGRI Steering Group – (Sam Dilcock)**
- C/16/106 SD noted that the group had one item for approval and asked council to agree to NFYFC discussing and considering its future membership of CEJA at the October Council meeting. Council voted and approved this item.
- C/16/107 SD asked council to note the following items discussed at the group;
- C/16/108 The Steering Group will be developing future agricultural policy points to share with Defra and industry organisations.
- C/16/109 The Steering Group considered feedback of this year's AGRI Forum and discussed plans for next year's event.
- C/16/110 YFC membership reaction to the result of the EU Referendum was discussed.
- C/16/111 The Group will be working with the E&M steering group to publicise the forthcoming Massey Ferguson study tour to Beauvais. The tour is on October 9th-11th and will be advertised at approximately £150.
- C/16/112 AGRI will work to create an online library of information of industry organisations and relevant training.
- C/16/113 The group discussed and supported the e-grain passport scheme currently under consultation.
- C/16/114 AGRI members discussed the Efficiency with Safety competition feedback from regions and issues surrounding the entry qualifications.
- C/16/115 AGRI encouraged all to promote the newly launched Fresh Start Land Enterprise matching service The BVDFree campaign which NFYFC supports (approved at February Council) is now registered as a limited company, has over 70 supporting organisations, is currently constructing a website and the elimination scheme launches on 1 July.

C/16/116 AGRI discussed continued promotion of careers in the agricultural sector with the Youth Forum as well as on-farm safety and training.

C/16/117 The group received reports from representatives and that members discussed the following issues: active farmer and young farmer definitions, country of origin labelling, access to land and funding.

C/16/118 An AGRI representative attended the Conservative Rural Action Group.

C/16/119 AGRI will progress with events submitted within the Defra grant if and when NFYFC receives positive feedback.

C/16/120 NFYFC office holders met with the Farming Minister in April and has another meeting scheduled for 18 October.

C/16/121 AGRI has secured space on the British Wool Marketing Board stand at the NSA Sheep Event on 27 July.

C/16/122 AGRI will encourage the membership to progress or form new AGRI discussion groups.

C/16/123 **Report to council from the Board of Management (Frank Chester)**

C/16/124 FC asked council to approve that the board would like to take legal advice to look at the route available to change the status of NFYFC into an Incorporated Organisation. CL addressed council and gave them a brief outline as to the advantages of NFYFC changing its status possibly into a 'Company by Limited Guarantee', this way NFYFC could pick up further grants and donations and be able to accept gift aid, whereas at present as a Friendly Society there are restrictions into what it can actually do or claim. **Council voted and approved this proposal for NFYFC to take legal advice only at this stage.**

C/16/125 FC noted that following a meeting of the governance group the board would like council to approve that together with the officers, steering group chairs and staff; the board will look at the meeting structure of the council weekend from February 2017 and will come back to the October council meeting with proposals. **Council voted and approved this action.**

C/16/126 FC asked council for their approval to allow NFYFC to look at the options for an online membership system and to be in a position to pilot this system with two large counties in September 2017. **Council voted and approved this action.**

C/16/127 The board have recommended that council approve the NFYFC Standards of Personal Behaviour Policy, together with supporting Appendices. Council approved the Policy and this will be now be circulated.

C/16/128 The board wish to congratulate James Eckley, Robert Blezard and their team on a successful and profitable Annual Convention 2016 in Blackpool.

C/16/129 The board will be commencing a recruitment process to replace Mr Frank Chester, Chair of the Board of Management, as his term of office ends in December 2016. This role will be for a period of 2 years and an optional further 2 years.

C/16/130 A new post of Development & Training Officer will be created and recruited for.

C/16/131 The 2016 budgets and forecast have been reviewed. Following a successful Convention and because of the grant from the Cabinet Office, the forecasted year-end outcome is currently £37,000. The 2017 draft budget has also been reviewed.

C/16/132 The IT Systems at the YFC Centre are being reviewed and some equipment will be replaced or upgraded software added.

C/16/133 FC noted that Gary Woodman would be leaving NFYFC on Friday 1st July to take a new position. FC wished Gary all the very best in his new role and thanked him for his help and support to the county offices and staff team during his time at NFYFC.

C/16/134 **Dates of Future Council Meeting** – CM confirmed that the next meetings will be held on Sunday Sunday 23rd October 2016.

C/16/135 **Any Other Relevant Business**

C/16/136 OoN confirmed that the Competitions Steering group in association with the events group will be arranging some ATV training sponsored by HONDA at the Competitions Day in 2017.

C/16/137 Mark Hurst asked FC and the Board of Management as part of their review of council to look at the ‘Single Transferable Voting System’ and bring back proposals to the October Council. **Action: BoM.**

C/16/138 CB confirmed to council that any interesting YFC stories for the NFYFC Comms department should be emailed to magazine@nfyfc.org.uk. Please could all council pass on these details to their members.

C/16/139 CM asked council to encourage their members to help share knowledge and take up Club Exchanges, pick a couple of weekends, plan some activities and help members to make new friends, learn new skills and have lots of fun.

C/16/140 **Closing Remarks**

C/16/141 With no further business Chris Manley thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at: 13:10 hrs.

Signed
Chris Manley (Chair of Council)

Dated:.....

