



**Minutes of the AGRI meeting held on 17 February 2018  
at the Quality Hotel, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BA**

**Present:** Harriet Wilson (Chair [WM]); James Hutchinson (Vice Chair, NFU representative [SW]); Kate Wainwright (EM); Ben Robinson (SE); Richard Bower (NFU Next Generation); Charles Day (observer); Thomas Oatey (Youth Forum Chair); Charlotte Middlebrook (CLA rep[N]); David Goodwin (WM); Russell Carrington (Fresh Start Representative, Herefordshire, RYE); Chris Manley (ex-officio NFYFC Chair); Richard Mottershead (WM); Lauren Clark (Notts FYFC staff member); Chris Dobinson (N); Jake Sayer (SW); Alistair Hughes (EM); Dan Hicks (observer, Glos); Charles Day (observer Glos); Rory Loftus (SE); Greg Colebrook (E); George Baxter (observer, Cambs); Cameron Shell (N); Colin Tucker (observer, Devon); Scott Rix (E)

**Part meeting:** James Eckley (NFYFC CEO); Lynsey Martin (Vice Chair [SE]); Heather Black (NFYFC BoM Chair);

**In attendance:** Sarah Palmer (Agricultural and Rural Issues Officer)

**Saturday, 17 February 2018**

- 1. Welcome and introductions** - HW welcomed all present and introductions followed.
- 2. Apologies for absence** - Kate Bennett (KUHN); Sian Pritchard (KUHN) James Evans (co-option, CEJA Representative [Wales YFC]); Rebecca Heal (TRIG); Caryl Hughes (Wales YFC); Dafydd Jones (Wales YFC);
- 3. To confirm minutes of the previous meeting** - HW signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.
- 4. Correspondence and any additional items for the agenda** - Correspondence received included:
  - Defra advice regarding correct applications for new Defra productivity equipment grant scheme; Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) has invited NFYFC to recommit to the FSP charter; British Wool (a change of branding from British Wool Marketing Board) is offering subsidised shearing training (Blue Seal) for YFC members and further support for the NFYFC shearing competition; British Wool is also looking for a male and female lead for a new entrant campaign – to be launched in the spring; British Food Fortnight – Alexia Robinson’s request for young farmer champions of a new campaign to promote British food; a request from the competitions steering group for helpers at the Competitions Weekend, 31 June and 1 July in Staffordshire. Following a successful South East Area club visit organised by BR with Humphrey Feed and Pullets, NFYFC has submitted a sponsorship discussion proposal to the company. A Facebook code of conduct was circulated for new members of the steering group to complete and return. Two submissions for co-option consideration received from Kate Wainwright and Amy Panton. A Fresh Start advisory meeting will take place 9 March at the CLA, London.
- 5. CEJA working group meeting and seminar**

SP gave an overview of all arrangements to date and a copy of the seminar programme. There are places still available and the group was requested to ensure regional representation.

SP will continue organizing working with CEJA and NFU.

Actions

All to note

Action SP  
and All

**National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (England and Wales)**

YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

tel 024 7685 7200 fax 024 7685 7229 email [post@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:post@nfyfc.org.uk) web [www.nfyfc.org.uk](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk)



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## 6. AGRI Brunch 5 May

SP provided a design draft for the AGRI Brunch event scheduled for 5 May at Annual Convention which will appear in the next edition of Ten26.

The group agreed the title for AGRI Brunch would be 'Big Ideas Brunch' with a theme of maximising future opportunities in agricultural and rural businesses. Doors open at **10.30 am** for food and exhibits and the event will start at **11.00 am**. Guest speakers include Sir John Campbell – Glenrath Farms, Rob Boole-Greenway Training and Chris Cardell, dairy farmer and NFU Tenants' spokesman. Charlotte Smith will be asked to facilitate. An informal set up for discussion with guest speaker, round tables for the audience and facilitation to ensure interaction amongst the audience. (A compromise to ensure YFC members had the opportunity to engage in conversation within groups as well as listen to speakers. Charlotte Smith (tbc) would be briefed to ensure a flow of topics/conversation.

NFYFC will design a Facebook events page and AGRI members will help promote to YFC members and support the event. Helpers required for Saturday morning.

**Action SP  
and All**

## 7. Elections

LM joined the group for elections, results of which are as follows:

Chair: James Hutchinson	Proposer: DG	Seconder: BR
Vice: David Goodwin	Proposer: HW	Seconder: RM
Co-options:		
Kate Wainwright	Proposer: DG	Seconder: JH
Amy Panton	Proposer: GC	Seconder: SR
NFU Next Gen Forum Rep	Proposer: JH	Seconder: HW
NFU Rep: Kate Wainwright	Proposer: HW	Seconder: DG
Dep Rep: Charlotte Middlebrook	Proposer: DG	Seconder: KW

CLA Rep: David Goodwin	Proposer: HW	Seconder: JS
Dep Rep: Greg Colebrook	Proposer: GB	Seconder: RB
LEAF Rep: George Baxter	Proposer: GC	Seconder: RB
Dep Rep: Rory Loftus	Proposer: JH	Seconder: GB
Fresh Start Rep: Ben Robinson	Proposer: GB	Seconder: HW
Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG): Becky Heal – successor required		
CEJA Reps: Charlotte Middlebrook, Kate Wainwright, Harriet Wilson, Greg Colebrook, David Goodwin, Richard Bower, Rory Loftus, Richard Mottershead, Caryl Hughes, Jake Sayer and James Hutchinson		

## 8. Defra Grant and Brexit

SP outlined progress on 2017-18 projects including Start Young and Value Added Guide with Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) – guide design highlighted and launch date and venue proposed. The succession video filming will take place with actors and Sian Bushell due to time constraints. As with the Defra-funded [Smart Farming Guide](#), projects are aimed to reach a wide and diverse YFC audience. The seminar on collaboration and co-operation takes place on 2 March in association with the NFU Next Generation Forum as part of the CEJA UK Seminar.

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The Future Wildlife and Future Farming event held in association with A Focus on Nature at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust in November was a great success. The group agreed that more events should be held to encourage conversation between single issue groups outside the usual YFC remit and to keep in contact with A Focus on Nature.

There was also very positive feedback from the 'YFC talks to Defra' discussion/engagement events with evaluation requesting similar future events. Suggestions for future topics included succession and discussion ensued regarding budgeting/attracting support and template provision for future events.

SP reported that the 2018-19 NFYFC Defra grant had been submitted and at Defra's request included two training projects (food, farming and careers and succession Curve modules and videos) and support for the AGRI Forum. NFYFC will be informed of Defra's consideration.

NFYFC continues to have places at the Defra farming productivity roundtable meetings and the NFU Brexit farming roundtable group. SP highlighted a request for members to provide information regarding how take-up of knowledge and advice for farmers can be improved.

LM reported on the last Brexit Farming Roundtable meeting (organised by the NFU) which included the following points: analysis of the Secretary of State's recent speech at the Oxford Farming Conference; Brexit progress - view from DExEU - Phil Earl; Environmental regulation post-Brexit – Amy Mount head of the Greener UK Unit at the Green Alliance; designing a post-Brexit agri-environment programme – Tom Lancaster senior policy officer at the RSPB. The next meeting will be held in April in Northern Ireland, hosted by the UFU. Minutes have been circulated (but will be circulated further for new members) and the RSPB power point.

#### **9. Study tour to KUHN, Saverne**

The visit is currently being planned with an intended launch at the AGRI Brunch. The group agreed that the end of October dates were preferable and further details regarding costs for the trip would be prepared for the launch in May.

#### **10. Feedback from industry representatives**

**TRIG** - no additional work since the last report

**CEJA** - SP reported on the CEJA UK seminar arrangements, programme and budget to date. More regional representatives required, but good numbers from NFU Next Generation and industry group training schemes. RB circulated the result of January's working group meeting, a first draft of the CEJA statement on Brexit. The group had the opportunity to read, discuss and contribute to the draft to date. This will be further discussed and agreed on 1 March during the CEJA working group meeting at NFU Conference Centre. The NFYFC AGRI Considerations for a future British Agricultural Policy (Brexit position paper) was highlighted to ensure a consistent message from NFYFC.

**CLA** – agenda and minutes of the last CLA meeting were highlighted and the need for a representative to attend and feedback to the group.

**Action SP  
and all to help  
promote  
or attend**

**Action SP**

**Action  
LM/KW**

**Action JH**

**Action All**

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**NFU** - JH reported on the recent NFU Council meeting and topics discussed included: Brexit plans; the need for representation from a younger membership; communications department’s report on educational work in progress - in association with Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) and Countryside Education (FACE); commodity boards; various labour issues-including listing agricultural workers; capping payments; active farmer definition; government grants. RB commented that the Secretary of State had now finished his ‘listening’ mode. He also explained the work of the NFU Next Generation Forum and his role as chair of the group.

A discussion took place regarding the activity on online activists. AGRI discussed the current problem of Vegan activists’ activities online (in particular to the farming community) and recommended an advisory note for YFC clubs and counties. It was agreed that positive messages and not engaging with online conversation (with activists) was the preferred action.

A discussion also took place regarding Red Tractor and other quality/assurance schemes.

**Action SP/JE**

**LEAF** - DG had submitted a written report (05-AGRI-18) for the group to read which highlighted the discussion topic of the November meeting – engaging more with the livestock sector.

**Fresh Start** - SP reminded the group of the background, input and future commitment to the pilot matching service. RC reiterated the need for a young farmer to attend advisory meetings. It was noted that there had been complaints from potential users of the service regarding lack of response to enquiries and fees. It was requested that Alan Jagoe is contacted to encourage him to highlight the Fresh Start Land Partnerships Service when he spoke of the Irish land mobility scheme.

**11. Campaigns** - SP highlighted support for the BVD campaign and the issue of ensuring that AGRI continued their role as mentors and advocates for the steering group and industry. RC requested that BVD is invited to the AGRI Brunch as an exhibitor.

**Action SP**

Tom Oatey joined the group to feedback from the recent Youth Forum There was a request for AGRI to help the Youth Forum identify ongoing YFC work with Open Farm Sunday: the group agreed to ask the AGRI link reps to help gather information from their county.

**Action SP**

**12. AOB** SP highlighted a meeting the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP in December and his offer to host a future meeting and visit for YFC members in the future.

**Action SP**

**13. Date of next meeting and close**

JH closed the meeting at 6.10 pm and the date of the next meeting is Saturday, 23 June 2018.

**Action All**

Signed .....  
James Hutchinson (Chair of AGRI)

Dated:.....  
June 2018

