



**Minutes of the AGRI meeting held on 15 February 2020
at the Quality Hotel, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BA**

Present: David Goodwin (Warwickshire [WM]); George Baxter (Cambridgeshire [E]); Steve Rogers (Herefordshire, [WM]); Neil Curr (Cumbria [N]; Luke Cox (Wiltshire [SW]); Tom Pope (Somerset [SW]; Erica Smith (observer, Staffordshire), Aimee Smith (observer, Staffordshire), Beth Duchesne (Suffolk [E]), Henry Graham (Berkshire [SE]), Lawry Taylor (Oxfordshire [SE]), Ed Turner (observer, Herefordshire), Jack Marlow (Northamptonshire [EM])

Part-meeting: Delme Harries (Chairman of NFYFC Board of Management); (Laura Elliott member of NFYFC Board of Management) and Katie Hall (Chairman of NFYFC Council).

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

Saturday, 15 February 2020

1. Welcome and introductions

DG welcomed all present, noted there were no additions for the agenda and introductions followed.

2. Apologies for absence

Kate Wainwright (Derbyshire, NFU rep); Nicola Palfrey (Somerset, TRIG rep); Sam Smith (Buckinghamshire), Ernie Richards (Herefordshire [WM]), Greg Colebrook (Cambridgeshire), Gareth Hutchings (Devon [SW])

3. To confirm minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes from the October meeting were approved and signed as a true record by DG.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence received included: two requests for co-options to AGRI; feedback from the Youth Forum; an updated draft from the organisers of Cereals 2020 regarding the young farmers' programme; a copy of the industry-supported letter to the Prime Minister; a TRIG meeting report from Nicola Palfrey; an email from NFU's Head of Communications Sharon Hockley regarding the NFU's Rally on 25 March; Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV) regarding a recent publication: Retirement Housing for Farmers in the UK; Love British Food – Alexia Robinson's invitation to a discussion event regarding British Food & Drink Fortnight and an invitation to a planned event by Creative Rural Industry at Tate Britain, 24 June (including a workshop session-Rural Youth as natural leaders and innovators for the creative rural industries; Young Farmers' Clubs as pioneer innovators in the rural economy) – *dependent on a successful funding bid.*

5. Items to note from previous agenda

Consideration of George Baxter's motion for the NFYFC AGM – 'That YFCs should source and promote British Food at their events'. Support received from the group.

AGRI discussed how they could effectively and constructively input to the competitions group and it was agreed that GB would take the suggestion to the steering group chair that AGRI should review and input to

Actions

All to share

All to note

GB



rules for agri-subject competitions. Considerations included farm business development, mock auctions, soil assessment and crop judging. These competitions should be marketed effectively with a video explanation.

6. NFYFC Summit

Feedback and explanation of the NFYFC Summit day held at Coventry on Sunday 19 January. Tom Pope attended and reported back that it was a positive event that stimulated constructive conversation, ideas and action.

All to share

7. Update on AGRI events

Positive feedback regarding the nine 'YFC Talks to Defra' events which were well-attended, positive and constructive. It was noted that YFC members received these regional events well and requested more events in the future. (Defra grant-funded work.)

SP to progress

Three of the five business and tenancy training events have taken place with two more events scheduled for Berkshire FYFC (19 March) and East Riding of Yorkshire (tbc). (Defra grant-funded work). DG reiterated the positive work with Defra and the benefit of this on-going relationship.

Laura Elliott and NFYFC Chair joined the group for the elections, the result of which as follows:

8. Elections

	Proposer	Seconder	Result
Chair (GB)	DG	LT	GB
Vice (TP)	GB	DG	TP
Co-opt	DG	LT	Steve Rogers Sam Smith Luke Cox

**All to note
SP to update**

AGRI 2020-21

Chair: George Baxter	(Eastern)
Vice Chair: Tom Pope	(South West)
Beth Duchesne	(Eastern)
Neil Curr	(Northern)
Oliver Mackintosh	(Northern)
Lawry Taylor	(South East)
Henry Graham	(South East)
Gareth Hutchings	(South West)
Nia Borse	(Wales)
Caryl Hughes	(Wales)
Ernie Richards	(West Midlands)
Jack Marlow	(East Midlands)
Samantha Allen	(East Midlands)



Co-options:

Sam Smith (Buckinghamshire)
Luke Cox (Wiltshire)
Steve Rogers (West Midlands)

Tenancy Reform Industry Group rep (Nicola Palfrey)
NFU rep (Beth Duchesne/Tom Pope)
CLA rep (Greg Colebrook/Tom Pope)
LEAF rep (George Baxter/Ed Turner)

9. Review of events and planning including current and future Defra grant components - cont'd

AGRI Forum: discussion regarding re-scheduling the Daylesford visit (proposed first week in July) early evening.

SP

NFYFC Defra grant application plans for 2020-21 comprise:

- An AGRI Forum in association with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (G&WCT) at Loddington, Leicestershire. Suggested date in November for the Saturday after Bonfire night with members making their own accommodation and social arrangements for the preceding Friday night. A suggestion was made for YFC members to begin to record their own carbon footprint and a suggestion for a possible speaker included Merek Nowakowski. Event details: – farm visit, discussion and debate showcasing future farming and environmental opportunities.

SP

- Climate change regional and international engagement – achieving net zero by 2040.

All

Working with the NFU and government to ensure the voice of young farmers is heard at the preCOP26 event in Italy (forerunner for COP26 - 26th United Nations Climate Change conference) and that young farmers engage regionally to share the net zero vision

- Good practice - introduction and highlighting the benefits of auditing for environmental and productivity effectiveness.

SP gave a presentation on current and previous AGRI work, aims and objectives and the group discussed the questions of group identity, future aims and objectives and how it could engage with a larger amount of YFC members. LC led the discussion regarding refreshing the AGRI manifesto.

All to share

The existing AGRI manifesto will be revised and re-named **AGRI Ambition** which will have three sections comprising: Rural Community, Food & Farming and Innovating our Future with the following components:

SP

Rural Community

- Affordable rural housing
- Future of county council farms
- Connectivity
- Food and farming education
- Charity work

Food and Farming

- Continued input to rural and agricultural policy
- Promoting farm safety and wellbeing



-Environmental and sustainability awareness

Innovating our Future

- CPD Skills and Training
- Promoting British Farming

Future work includes the following rebranding for the AGRI steering group:

Name: **YFC AGRI** Meetings: **AGRI Futures** Strapline: **Our Future Countryside**

In addition, a farm walk for all those interested before the AGRI Futures meeting at the June Council and then a public engagement visit to Coventry city centre in Coventry before the meeting at October Council.

All to note and circulate

All agreed that Youth Forum members would be welcome at the new AGRI Futures meetings and looked forward to a continued growing relationship with YFC members.

7. Industry representatives' feedback

Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG)

Nicola Palfrey provided a concise and welcome report from the second TRIG meeting in addition to publicity of her role to the YFC membership and DG highlighted the importance of the reconvened group and the relevance of its work regarding the new Agriculture Bill.

NP

GB gave an overview of the meeting with the organisers of Cereals 2020, input given for the young farmers section of the show and ticket price concessions for YFC members following NFYFC partnership status.

**SP/GB/TH/DG
All to share**

8. AOB and items for the next agenda

AGRI WhatsApp and YFC AGRI Facebook group page to be updated with new contacts.

SP

9. Date of next meeting and close

DG summarised, thanked everyone for attending and noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 27 June. The meeting was closed at 17.01 pm.

Signed
George Baxter (Chair of AGRI)

Dated:.....
27 June 2020