

WALES FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS



TUESDAY, 20TH JANUARY 2022
'ZOOM'
7.00PM

MINUTES

CHAIRMAN: Miss Caryl Haf **VICE CHAIRMAN:** Mr Hefin Evans

PRESENT: Caryl Haf, (Council Chairman); Hefin Evans, (Council vice Chairman); Chris Lewis (President); Sian Healey, (Competitions Chairman); Iwan Meirion, (Finance and Management Chairman); Nerys Lewis, (International Chairman); Niall Evans (past International chairman); Aled Thomas, (Events and Marketing chairman); William Jones, (Rural Affairs Chairman); Cerys Herts (Youth Forum Chairman); Dafydd Jones (Building Group Chairman); Leanne Davies (Brecknock); Iestyn Owen, (Carmarthenshire); Sioned Davies and Rhiannon Davies (Ceredigion); Gwenno Davies (Clwyd); Katie Court and Elen Williams (Glamorgan); Manon Williams (Meirionnydd); Aled Rees and Elin Lewis (Montgomery); Samuel Kurtz, Delun Evans and Carys Phillips (Pembrokeshire); John James (Radnor); Sion (Sir Gâr); Rhys Richards and Elli Griffith (Ynys Môn); Kate Miles, Mared Jones, Rhodri Evans (Co-opted); Ed Dungait (NFYFC).

IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Ellis (Wales YFC CEO); Anna Jones, (Marketing and Communications Officer); Rhianwen Jones (Competitions and International Officer); Claire Powell (Wales YFC Finance Manager); Rhodri Lewis (YFC Language Development Officer p/t); Megan Jones (Wales YFC Admin); Edna Jones (Staff Association Chairman); Gwyneth Thomas (Gwent and Glamorgan County Organiser) and Hefin Jones (Translator).

C/01/2022

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Wales YFC Council meeting of 2022. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped 2022 would be a better year for everyone.

Welcomed all representatives and co-opted members in attendance.

Chairman noted that the meeting will be recorded for minute taking purposes. Translation available – test.

Those wishing to ask questions, please note them in the chat function or feel free to come off mute and put your views forward, noting your name and role.

For voting purposes, Vevox will once again be utilised. The link is in the chat.

The calendar of events for the forthcoming months was shared on the screen. The Chairman was delighted to see counties back to meeting physically and competing once again. On behalf of herself, Phil and Hefin, she thanked those Counties they had been able to visit for their warm welcome. She also noted the recent busy period with so many Zoom meetings taking place.

The Chairman congratulated all those who had been involved with the Christmas Panto and hoped all had benefited from the experience.

Congratulations were extended to Ceredigion for being awarded the Pan-Wales Youth Award.

The Chairman also thanked all those who had responded to the recent YPV Questionnaire – there was a good response rate and this would be discussed later in the CEO report on the Agenda.

C/02/2022

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Katie Davies (past YFC Wales Chairman); Rachel Goldiem; Matt Price (Radnor); Bleddyn Davies (Ceredigion); Lynfa Jones; Katie Matthews, Abbie Williams and Laura Bowyer (Gwent); Kathryn Jones.

C/03/2022

CHAIRMAN'S CAMPAIGN 2021-2022

Caryl Haf informed that, because of Covid restrictions, there was not much to note but hopefully a start will be made shortly on organising the evening dinners across Wales. She thanked those who had already been fundraising for her chosen charity, Alzheimer's Society Cymru.

She asked whether the Council would be happy for her to attend the June meeting of the Wales Alzheimer's Society. There was no objection to this.

C/04/2022

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the committee were reminded of the need to declare any interests they may have in any of business being discussed. This interest to be declared as and when we approach the matter.

C/05/2022

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 15th October 2021 having been circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record.

Proposer: ...Rhys..... (Ynys Mon)

Seconder: Aled Rees (Maldwyn)

C/06/2022

ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

C/07/2022

CORRESPONDENCE

None received

C/08/2022

COVID 19 UPDATE

Phil Ellis, Wales YFC CEO, gave an update on the relaxing of current Covid restrictions on social events in Wales from 28th January 2022 as announced by the Welsh Government. It will still however be the

responsibility of the various venues used to apply their own individual rules.

The CEO stressed that if anyone is uncertain to get in touch with Wales YFC and they will strive to answer any problems as soon as possible. Wales YFC are working closely with county staff and are also thankful to NFYFC for their information and guidance.

Wales YFC staff are currently working from home until further notice.

C/09/2022

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES:

a) Finance and Management – Iwan Meirion

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

- 1 .The meeting began with Iwan Meirion extending a warm welcome to everyone.
- 2 .The committee terms of reference were confirmed and adopted.
3. The following committee experts were appointed; Mr Malcolm Thomas, Mr Steve Hughson, Mrs Hilary Jones and Mrs Kathryn Jones
- 4 .A financial report was given by Mrs Claire Powell, confirming bank balances and current financial position.
- 5 .It was noted that a grant application had been submitted to the NYVO
6. It was agreed to add Mr Phil Ellis Chief Executive as a signature to the bank and to remove Rhodri Lewis.
- 7 .Mared Jones acting Director gave a report to include a staffing update and noted her thanks to the organisation during her time with the movement.
8. It was noted that work is still ongoing to move the Terrence Meredith Fund from the Royal Welsh Show Society
9. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 25 January 2022.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

1. Nothing to approve.

b) Rural Affairs – William Jones

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

1. The meeting began with William Jones extending a warm welcome to everyone.
2. It was noted that Mrs Claire Powell was in attendance and acting as the staff contact until a new RA member of staff is recruited and appointed.
3. Discussions have started with Quad Bike Wales around holding the competition possibly at the Wales YFC Field Day, however the committee are keen to revert back to the Winter Fair in future years.
4. The RA committee have agreed to support Keep Wales Tidy Dog Fowling Campaign and we will be launching a few things via social media shortly.
5. The committee would like to hold the RA conference on a face to face basis unless COVID restrictions prevent this on Saturday 30 April 2022 in a venue in North Wales to be confirmed
6. Lamb scheme figures were shared with the committee and a catch

up meeting will be taking place between staff and Senior Wales YFC Officers in due course.

7. The committee reviewed the Winter Fair
8. A meeting has been scheduled with Dr Hazel Wright, FUW and NFU to comply a response to the TB consultation. The zoom meeting will take place on Thursday 27 January 2022 and the response has to be submitted before the 8 February 2022.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

1. Nothing to approve.

c) Events and Marketing -Aled Thomas

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

1. The meeting began with Aled Thomas welcoming everyone back,
2. Discussions have started regarding potentially hosting a face-to- Face AGM in September this year, details for council to approve below.
3. A reminder that 2 representatives from each county now can attend this committee.
4. Anna and Phil are both in talks with Menter a Busnes, creating a Marketing Strategy for Wales YFC and a campaign to be launched at the beginning of this year to "Back Wales YFC".
5. Awaiting results of YPV survey, to confirm plans for this year.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

1. The committee would like to put forward for approval: AGM to return as an in-person event this year and hosted by a county. County would need to organise social events, however The Wales office will be coordinating logistics such as accommodation bookings, safeguarding, travel etc. Trial this for 3 years and re-visit structure afterwards, and within those 3 years host in a North county, Mid and South.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT

General discussion took place with the committee being commended for suggesting this new idea which most members present considered would be worthwhile trying.

A vote took place on the proposal to have a "travelling AGM" for a trial period of 3 years. This was approved by a majority of 97%.

d) International – Miss Nerys Lewis

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

1. The International committee had met twice since the last Council Meeting.
2. The 2022 international programme was confirmed, with applications accepted last December. We are holding the Selection Day on Sunday via Zoom, where 6 applicants will be interviewed.

- 3 The committee felt confident that most trips could go ahead this year, therefore Wales YFC have asked all travellers for the £40 admin fee.
4. It was agreed that Wales YFC would host incoming delegates this year, including America whereby the delegate will be here for approximately 3 months and cannot stay with one host family for less than a two week period
5. Policies and protocols are to be drawn up in relation to hosting in light of COVID 19, including whether incoming and outgoing delegates should be fully vaccinated and what happens should someone catch COVID while hosting/travelling.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

1. That Wales YFC will accept delegates from around the world as part of the international programme.

e) Youth Forum – Cerys Herts

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

1. The meeting began with Cerys Herts welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the year, and her first meeting as Chair.
2. Anna confirmed she will be supporting the committee with their administration needs.
3. Discussions regarding a report from alongside the Welsh Youth Parliament and feedback. Some additional points were made to forward to that committee, regarding quality of School Buildings and again connectivity / bad phone signal in rural areas. Anna to feed this back.
4. The committee would like to meet in person in April, before exams start, and also incorporate an activity into the day as it's been so long without anyone seeing each other face to face. Dates and locations to be confirmed.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

Nothing to approve

f) Building Group – Dafydd Jones

COUNCIL TO NOTE:

1. Dafydd noted that a Group of Architects from Cardiff, Celf Creative, had been appointed to submit plans for the YFC Centre building.
2. Phil Ellis and Dafydd met with the Architects in Llanellwedd recently and they have provided a rough picture of their ideas.
3. The Building Group will be meeting again and together with Finance and Management will be discussing the future of the Building and discuss whether the plan will be to refurbish or re-build.

Council to approve:

There were no points put forward for approval.

g) Personnel and Remuneration – Hefin Evans

Council to note:

It was noted that the two posts for the Rural Affairs Officer and the Welsh Language Development Officer are being re-advertised and the closing date is the 14th February 2022. Hefin impressed on the members to spread the word about these vacancies so that we can attract the best candidates to apply.

Council to approve:

There were no points put forward for approval.

h) Competitions – Sian Healey**COUNCIL TO NOTE:**

1. The committee has met four times since the last Council meeting, with all of the 2021-22 competition rules now confirmed.
2. Since the last Council meeting, the Competitions committee have elected a Vice Chairman – Sioned Davies, Ceredigion.
3. The committee sent a letter to NFYFC regarding the Pantomime competition, highlighting the difficulty in holding this competition with Welsh restrictions in place. The NFYFC steering group confirmed the National Pantomime finals would be going ahead however allowed Wales until the 4th April to hold the competition. Since then, the Wales YFC Entertainment Feast was cancelled for 2022, with the Member of the Year competitions now happening on Public Speaking Day.
4. Two counties are still hoping to hold their Pantomime competition before the deadline, and will therefore get the opportunity to represent Wales YFC at the National finals, they are Glamorgan and Gwent.
5. The Competitions committee proposed to write a letter to NFYFC to propose that the Pantomime competition is held in 2023 in order to give more of our members the opportunity to compete.
6. We have implemented a Stockjudging contingency plan - if a certain stock cannot be sourced for competition, fat lambs will be used in their place.
7. The committee reviewed recent competitions including the Eisteddfod and Winter Fair, with both being noted as successful events for Wales YFC.
8. The Competitions committee received correspondence from a member who felt it was important to recognise the achievements of members in the Virtual Competitions. The committee agreed to send certificates to members who were successful in all virtual competitions, as well as the Agri Day in 2021.
9. Upcoming competitions are Public Speaking day, being held on Sunday 27th March in Llanellwedd, Field Day on the 23rd April being hosted by Clwyd and Sports Day in Brecon on the 19th June.
10. The next Competitions meeting was noted as the 8th March 2022.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE:

1. Wales YFC to send certificates to all members who were successful in the 2020-21 Virtual Competitions at a total cost of £1200 for the certificates.
2. Wales YFC to send a letter to NFYFC to propose that Pantomime be held once again in 2023.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT:

- a) Issues were raised re cost of producing and sending 359

certificates to successful members. Consideration was given to awarding 'virtual' certificates for the 'virtual' competitions. The majority of members however supported the issue of 'hard' certificates as these were traditionally recognised and appreciated.

- b) Intense discussion took place regarding the lost opportunity for Wales to be able to compete in this year's national Panto competition. Members were keen that a strong letter from Wales YFC be sent to NFYFC supporting the idea to hold a Pantomime competition again in 2023 as Wales lost out this year due to the Covid restrictions. It was also suggested that individual counties could send a letter of support.

1. A vote was taken on the proposal to provide real certificates and this was approved with 83.78% in favour.
2. A vote was taken regarding sending a letter to NFYFC requesting that a Pantomime competition be again held in 2023 with counties having a discussion and providing a letter of support. This was approved with 91.89% in favour.

i) CEO Update

Sam Kurtz asked whether working from home was going to be the long-term model?

CEO explained that it looks as if hybrid working would be the pattern for the immediate future.

All reports were approved.

C/10/2022

NFYFC

Ed Dungait reported on the work of the NFYFC:

Ed reported that he had attended a County Chairs Conference in Cardiff in October – this proved to be a very productive weekend.

Ed informed the Council that the total number of members at the end of September was 16,000 which is very good and on a par with pre-pandemic and back to normal.

NFYFC are recruiting for 2 posts at the moment –

Development and and a Digital Members post

19 – 20 February 2022 – Council weekend to be held in Leamington Spa

23 – 24 April = Performing Arts Final – looking forward to seeing the 2 Welsh Panto entries.

Subs – no proposed change - £25.80 from September 2022. Asked for thoughts on 17 months span – up to 2024?

Other planned events:

02/06/2022 – Queen's Jubilee; thoughts on lighting a beacon?

07/06/2022 – NFYFC Lunch

11/06/2022 – NFYFC Summer Ball in Northumberland, tickets available soon

February 2023 – National event – Achievement Awards Ceremony, Birmingham (Black Tie Dinner)

Caryl thanked NFYFC for attending and for their continued support of Wales YFC.

Members discussed their reservations regarding any increase in the Levy. Ed reiterated that there would be no increase this year and discussions would be held re future years. He reassured members that the Trustees do make investments and grant funding is always being chased.

Caryl thanked everyone for their contributions and encouraged them to go back to their counties to discuss any proposals for 2023. These views would be put forward and discussed at NFYFC Committee.

NFYFC Committee Reps

YFC Agri - William Jones (Meirionnydd); Aled Thomas (Pemb)

Competitions – Caryl Haf (Ceredigion)

Personal Development - Aled Rees (Maldwyn)

Membership & Marketing – Abi Williams (Gwent)

NFYFC Deputy President (Wales) – Owen Elliott (re-elected)

Counties were asked to put their nominations forward as full representation was needed.

C/11/2022

MEMBERSHIP

End of Year membership figures to date were shared on the screen for all members to consider. Chairman extended her thanks to those Counties that had increased their membership and looked forward to the YFC being back stronger post Covid.

C/12/2022

AGENDA ITEMS & DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of Council was noted as being Sunday, 26th June 2022 at Llanellwedd and, hopefully, with all meetings taking place face to face.

Members were asked to please send any items to be included on the Agenda to Wales YFC.

C/13/2022

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Delun Evans (Pemb) reported that their Eisteddfod committee had decided to replace the Cerdd Dant competition with Under 21 Recitation at their Eisteddfod in Fishguard in November. It was also asked whether the Rules could be sent out earlier this year. This will be discussed at Wales level.

As there was no further business, members were thanked for their input and the meeting was declared closed. 9.10pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____