

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE  
BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 12 JULY 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Youth Town Councillors: Councillors H Goodman (Chairman), M Gillies, L Munday,  
T Paxton-Doggett, C Watkins, B Wylde and J Wyndham Rooke.

Town Councillors: Councillor B Mabbett

Others present: F Ward – Sweatbox  
Jim Mitchell – Opera Unmasked  
One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Youth Councillor E Rixon.

**Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2017**

Item 10 It was altered from “These included whether the age restriction could be altered to” to “These included whether the elections allowed for”. In the next paragraph it was changed from “Youth Council were within a miles radius” to “Youth Council that were within three miles radius”.

The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

**14. Statements and questions from the public**

Jim Mitchell was present to answer questions on the donation request for the ‘One Voice’ competition. It was confirmed that this would not be for a particular type of music but instead would be any voice accompanied by a piano or instrument rather than backing music. It was intended that the reach be of approximately three to four miles, or the OX12 region. The audience numbers were hoped to be up to a couple of hundred for the finals and the age restriction would likely be for 10-18 year olds. The ages would be grouped into categories and there may be some potential for duets. There would potentially be three heats, possibly taking place at the Challow Park Studios. There may be a ticket charge for entry into the finals or perhaps a donation, either of which would go towards funds for future singers.

It was agreed that should the donation be given by the Youth Town Council that there would be acknowledgement of this in any advertisement and/ or their involvement in the audition process.

**15. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

These were taken out of order.

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b) Donations and grants

In relation to the donation for the 'One Voice' Competition, it was agreed that all of the questions had been answered and, on the proviso that the Youth Town Council be involved and acknowledged in the process, it was resolved to give £700 as requested. This would now be taken to the PM&F committee meeting to approve. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

Jim Mitchell was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

a) Twitter and Facebook

It was noted that one of the Facebook pages had been deleted and that one more needed to be taken down. **Action: Collins/Mabbett**

The Twitter page would be continued but would need a password to be passed from Councillor Mabbett to the Chairman. **Action: Mabbett**

A template had started to be prepared by the Chairman and would include reference to each of the Youth Councillors three aims, what school and year group they were in, why they had wished to become involved in the process and what they hoped to achieve going forward. This would be prepared and circulated ready to be placed on the new Town Council website, the Youth Town Council Facebook page and the noticeboard. **Action: Chairman**

The social media training would now be taking place after the summer but would be open to all and it was agreed that the date be confirmed of Wednesday 27 September at 6pm at the Sweatbox. This would be booked in accordingly. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Financial education

There was no update at this time and it was now likely to wait until September when there may be new staff in place. It was likely the theme day would be aimed at year 9/ year 10 and above. **Action: Wyndham Rooke/Chairman**

d) Youth Town Council noticeboard

The profiles would be set up and circulated by the Chairman. Sports events and groups locally would be provided by Youth Councillor Gillies and any event notices for youth events would be provided by all and by Sweatbox for their events. **Action: All**

e) Involving more young people in local government

It had been agreed that a relationship be formed with primary schools in the area to make sure that they were involved as youth in the area. A letter had been prepared by the Chairman and circulated which would be sent off to the most local primary schools including Charlton, Stockham, Fitzwaryn and Wantage CE. It was discussed that it was likely that the same two Youth Councillors would go to a particular school and that possibly this would take place three times a year such as in terms 1, 3 and 6. How it evolved greatly depended on whether

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the school had a student council as this would be the easiest to link up with. If the school did not have a student council, it may be that an introductory assembly was required. The letter was agreed and would be sent out before the end of term. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

In relation to the elections for the two spaces outside of KAs, it was agreed that these go to secondary schools only and the letter from the Deputy Clerk was circulated. These schools would go as far as Didcot, Faringdon and Abingdon and would specifically refer to young people who resided within Wantage area (or three miles of). Councillor Mabbett would amend and return to the Deputy Clerk to distribute. **Action: Mabbett**

This election process would not include primary school age children, partly due to the difficulty of these then potentially, in a year's time, being part of KA's, whereas the intention was for the two places to be outside of KA's. It was agreed to look into a place being provided at each meeting for co-opting a local primary school pupil. This would be a non-voting member and would need to be included in the constitution. **Action: Mabbett**

f) Events in 2017

It was noted that the Armed Forces Day event had now taken place and that this had received very positive feedback. Those Youth Town Councillors that had taken part in the day were thanked for their assistance. It was felt that there was far more for the youth of Wantage to do at this event than at previous events in the town although there may be scope for expanding the gaming area to be a much larger provision. This would be fed back to the final events sub-committee meeting at the end of the week.

The next event was Dylanfest on Saturday 29 July. There would also be a volunteer's reception which the Youth Councillors would be invited to attend and this was likely to be in November. Dickensian evening would be taking place on Friday 1 December and the Youth Councillors were asked if they wished to sing carols with the main Town Council. The Mayor's Carols would be on 6 December. A decision would need to be made on the song that would be sung for this event.

It was noted that contact had been made with the Chairman from the Twinning Association and that there was a wish to try and increase the communication and relationship between youth in Seesen and youth in Wantage. There was a visit taking place to Seesen in August/September which the Chairman would be attending. In addition, there would be visitors from Seesen at the end of July and it was hoped that this may involve some interaction with the Youth Council. **Action: Chairman**

g) Wi-fi availability

The idea of increasing wi-fi availability, particularly at the Manor Road Memorial Park, was to be taken forward to the next JEF meeting. It was suggested by Councillor Mabbett that there perhaps be a representative from the Youth Town Council at the next JEF meeting. **Action: Mabbett**

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h) Pedestrian crossing Grove Road/Harcourt Way

Councillor Trinder was not present at the meeting and there was no update at this stage from the County Council regarding the operation of the crossing. **Action: Trinder**

**16. General correspondence**

None.

**17. Any other matters to note**

It was discussed that a skateboard park be put on the agenda for the next meeting. This was in relation to provision and condition of facilities in the area and whether representation be made to the Crab Hill Forum about youth facilities, including a skateboard park, and whether these could be included on Crab Hill. **Action: Mabbett/Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that the next meetings would be on the 16 October, with the social media training prior to this on 27 September. A draft version of the constitution would be brought to the social media training on 27 September. **Action: Mabbett**

The intention would be for the constitution to then be brought to the next Youth Town Council meeting to consider, to then be taken to the following PM&F meeting to be ratified.

It was noted that a new Town Council website was currently under construction and that input from the Youth Town Council would be requested at the next meeting and included on the agenda. It was intended that there would be a Youth Town Council page on the website.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

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