

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 15 MAY 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Youth Town Councillors: Councillors H Goodman (Chairman), F Barr, M Gillies,
L Munday, T Paxton-Doggett, E Rixon and B Wylde

Town Councillors: Councillor S Trinder

Others present: F Ward - Sweatbox

Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Youth Councillors C Watkins and J Wyndham-Rooke.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of meeting held on 24 April 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Statements and questions from the public

None.

7. Matters arising from the previous minutes

a) Twitter and Facebook

The Chairman would take on the Twitter page, with the login details to be passed from Councillor Mabbett. It was agreed to increase the posting of polls leading up to the election and to use Twitter for the majority of the engagement of the Youth Town Council with youth in Wantage. **Action: Chairman/ Mabbett**

The Facebook page would be restarted and would include more formal information. This would include a profile of each Youth Councillor, meeting dates, minutes and agendas, contact information and information on upcoming events. There would also be scope for surveys, such as drawing out information on what issues were important to local youth. It was agreed that the profiles include name, photo, the manifesto of each and what was hoped to be achieved. The Chairman would set up a profile pro forma and would pass this on to the Deputy Clerk to circulate so that each Youth Councillor could fill in prior to the next meeting. **Action: Chairman/Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that Sylwia Korsak had been contacted to provide social media training going forward, potentially for the next meeting where guidance could also be given on setting up the Facebook page. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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b) Donations and grants

It was noted that there were no current requests for donation or grants but that a box would be added to the donation form to highlight any youth provision and this would be taken to the next PM&F meeting to approve. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Financial education

Discussion continued with KA's school on the financial theme day. It was noted that other local schools had finance projects, where pupils were given a budget to spend on bills, living expenses and so on and to calculate interest rates on a loan and general budgeting from a wage. It was discussed that the theme day could incorporate a similar idea, perhaps with a budget given to each and scenarios of bills, running costs, wages etc. It was agreed that this be aimed at years 9 and above. **Action: Chairman**

d) Youth Town Council noticeboard

It was agreed that this should be a priority going forward with the noticeboard being the side facing Costa. Much information had already been prepared but this would need to be updated. The sports club information would be prepared by Youth Councillor Gillies and financial and life skills by Youth Councillor Watkins. Information on the agendas and meeting dates would be provided by the Deputy Clerk. Frances Ward would provide information on Sweatbox, including any events posters. The Chairman would provide information in relation to what the Youth Council had been involved in so far and an introductory page to the noticeboard. Youth Councillor Lewis-Hughes had already prepared the information on health groups that were available. Any other suggestions would need to be brought to the next meeting. **Action: All**

e) Involving more young people in local government

Two spaces were still available on the Youth Town Council, outside of the KA's school. It was agreed that these should be secondary school age only. More information as to how the two outside spaces for the Youth Town Council would be elected would be prepared for the next meeting. **Action: Mabbett**

It was agreed that primary schools should also be made aware of the Youth Town Council and be encouraged to be involved. One option would be for a representative from local primary schools to report to certain meetings. It was agreed that a letter to be sent out to local primary schools giving background in relation to the Youth Town Council and encouraging them to become involved. This would be prepared by Youth Councillor Gillies and brought to the next meeting to review. **Action: Gillies**

It was suggested that visits to local primary schools be arranged with potentially an assembly on the work carried out by the Youth Town Council. A politics theme day was discussed for the lower years at KA's. This would be reviewed at the next meeting in more detail.

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f) Primary School visit to Youth Town Council

Contact had been made with a representative for Stockham Primary School and they had been invited to attend a future meeting, possibly in June.

g) Events in 2017

Preparations for Armed Forces Day on Sunday 25 June continued. The Youth Councillors were asked to attend if able, particularly as Sweatbox needed help with their equipment and face painting. It would be useful if the Youth Councillors could provide an idea of when they could be available to the Deputy Clerk to pass on to Frances Ward to fit into a rota. The next meeting of the sub-committee arranging Armed Forces Day would be on 16 May.

A competition was discussed for the day and this would be run by the Youth Town Council. This would need to be finalised in the next meeting.

It was noted that Dylan Fest would now be a one day event on Saturday 29 July from 12pm to 8pm. This would be at East Site.

h) Civic visit to Seesen

It was confirmed that there would be a civic visit by Councillors to Seesen in September. There was unfortunately no space for Youth Councillors to attend. However, there was a wish for there to be greater connection between the youth of Seesen and the Youth Town Council in Wantage. There may be a twinning visit in July from Seesen and, if possible, a meet and greet would be arranged. **Action: Mabbett**

8. General correspondence

None.

9. Any other matters to note

The idea of a skate park within Wantage was discussed and whether this would be well used by youth in the area. It was concluded that it would be welcomed but finding a location would be difficult. It was also noted that Sweatbox run an event called Skatebox periodically which did involve putting up a temporary skate park.

It was noted that the crossing at the base of Grove Road/ Harcourt Way did not work in terms of the pedestrian crossing. It was discussed that this had been disabled as it was mainly a cycle crossing. This would be checked with Oxfordshire County Council. **Action: Trinder**

The matter of wi-fi availability in the town was discussed, where the wi-fi hotspots currently were and whether the coverage could be improved. This could include Manor Road Park. Contact had been made with BT Openreach in this respect as to whether its facilities could be expanded. Prior to the next meeting, an assessment would be made of where the wi-fi was currently available and where this could be improved. This could be mapped out and made

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available on the Youth Town Council noticeboard. It was agreed to add this onto the agenda for the next meeting for greater discussion. **Action: Wylde**

A map of the town would be brought to the next meeting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The date of the next meeting was 19 June. At this meeting it would be discussed whether a July meeting would be appropriate and whether the meetings should continue to be on a Monday.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

AG/KB