

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Youth Town Councillors: Councillors H Goodman (Chairman), F Barr, L Munday,
R Purbrick, B Wylde and J Wyndham-Rooke (from item 20).

Town Councillors: Councillor B Mabbett
Councillor Mrs M Gradwell

Others present: F Ward – Sweatbox
G Hicks – Sweatbox Youth Centre Manager
2 members of the public

Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham

Apologies for absence

None.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

18. Election of Youth Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Nominations for the positions were discussed together with the job description for becoming the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the meeting. Councillor Mabbett was to forward round the job description to all Youth Councillors to consider the Chairmanship role. The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would then be held at the next meeting in November. A short, one minute brief would be given by each nominee as to why they should become Chairman.

For this meeting, the current Chairman would remain the Chair for the meeting.

19. Minutes of meeting held on 12 July 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

20. Statements and questions from the public

Georgina Hicks was present from Sweatbox to discuss the arrangements once East Site was closed at the end of December. A plan had been put in place for Sweatbox to go “on tour” for this period which would be between January and September 2018 when the new premises were planned to be available. A donation request form was circulated and it was confirmed that Sweatbox On Tour were seeking £4,000 from Wantage Youth Town Council towards enabling Sweatbox to run the sessions.

The donation request was discussed and it was confirmed that activities would generally cost between £600 and £700 a night to run and that an alternative could be for the Youth Town Council to have ownership of certain nights and be involved in the organisation and running of the night itself. It was confirmed that a greater breakdown of costs for particular evenings

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could be provided by the November meeting. There was considerable staff cost for running the events, even with being only every other Friday and with Tuesdays being dropped. Beatbox was also confirmed as continuing to run weekly on Thursdays during term time and part of the funding from the Youth Town Council could go towards this continuing.

Youth Councillor Wyndham-Rooke entered the meeting.

It was noted that the £5,000 budget available to the Youth Town Council would normally be renewed in April and that £700 had been spent already out of this budget leaving £4300 to consider for other projects.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Youth Councillor Goodman
SECONDED BY Youth Councillor Barr

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the request and to decide on the details of the contribution in the November meeting following a greater breakdown of costs being provided by Sweatbox.

21. Matters arising from the previous minutes

a) Donations and grants

It was confirmed that the £700 allotted to One Voice by the Youth Town Council had been approved by the Town Council's Policy Management and Finance Committee. This would therefore be made available to the competition and contact would be made with Jim Mitchell in relation to how the Youth Town Council would be involved and acknowledged in the process.

Action: Deputy Clerk

b) Financial education theme day

A meeting had been held between Youth Councillor Wyndham-Rooke and the Head of Faculty in Business and Computing and it had been confirmed that no theme day would be able to be held as these were already planned for the year. However, Youth Councillor Wyndham-Rooke and Youth Councillor Goodman were planning to have a meeting with staff as to a pack being sent out through the PHSE lessons. The tutor pack would go out to, initially, years 12 and 13 as a trial and would include resources such as information from local banks and potentially other organisations in terms of financial education. If this was successful, it could then be sent out to lower year groups as well.

Action: Wyndham-Rooke/Chairman

c) Youth Town Council noticeboard

It was agreed that this be taken forward as soon as possible with initially the profiles of each of the Youth Councillors being displayed and posters for any youth events. This could be one way of advertising the Sweatbox On Tour activities that would be available. The Chairman would provide a proforma of three questions for each of the Youth Councillors to fill in so that this could be collated in time for the next meeting. Miss Ward would provide the information relating to Sweatbox as and when this was available. It was agreed that the noticeboard could be updated as often as wished by the Youth Councillors and that perhaps a rota would be put into place.

Action: Chairman/Ward

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d) Elections and primary school involvement

Letters had been sent out prior to the summer holidays to all of the primary schools encouraging links between the Youth Town Council and the Student Unions at each of the schools. The Chairman had had contact with the Headmaster at Charlton Primary School and would hopefully be meeting shortly with the Student Council to move matters forward. Contact would be made again with the other primary schools in the area to try and encourage a similar relationship with other schools. The potential for a primary school pupil to be co-opted onto the Youth Town Council on a rota basis (for one meeting each) would be added into the Constitution. **Action: Deputy Clerk/ Mabbett**

The elections process was discussed at length for the additional two spaces. It was agreed that, to date, the King Alfred's election had been the King Alfred's Ward and that a Ward be made available for Fitzwaryn School and then one additional place on the Council for outside of KA's and Fitzwaryn. This would be available to young people who were at secondary school.

Initially, contact would be made with Fitzwaryn School to request that they consider an election process within the school to put forward one person for the Youth Town Council to represent SEN generally across the town.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Youth Councillor Goodman

IT WAS AGREED that the Fitzwaryn Ward be taken forward and for the School to be contacted to form their own election if willing, and to provide a representative following this process to be a Youth Councillor. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

For the remaining position on the Youth Town Council, it was agreed that nominations be requested by contact with individual schools and also by advertisements in local papers and online. It was then discussed that a panel potentially be put together to short list and decide on the Youth Town Council member.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Youth Councillor Wyndham-Rooke

SECONDED BY Youth Councillor Purbrick

IT WAS RESOLVED that the remaining space on the Youth Town Council be taken out to nominations in the post, on the website and through schools and that a panel decide on the successful candidate. The panel could be made up of a mix of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or other Councillors, previous Youth Town Council members and Sweatbox.

Action: Mabbett/Deputy Clerk

e) Wi-fi availability

Councillor Mabbett had not been able to take this forward to a JEF meeting and therefore would take this to the next available JEF meeting in January. This would be particularly in relation to increasing wi-fi availability, particularly at Manor Road Memorial Park and talking generally to the District Councils about improvements in access.

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f) Pedestrian crossing Grove Road/Harcourt Way

It was noted that Councillor Trinder had looked into the matter and that nothing further could be carried out with the operation of the crossing which was considered to be working appropriately.

22. Consideration of social media use and Youth Town Council page on main Council website

It was agreed, following the Social Media Training, that the three most successful forms of social media were likely to be Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It was agreed that one Youth Councillor be responsible for each but that practices be put into place to allow the Deputy Clerk and/or Councillor Mabbett see any post before it is posted. This would be relatively easy for the Facebook page where the page would be set up and each of the Youth Councillors could post on the page but these posts would not be visible until approved by the Deputy Clerk. For Twitter and Instagram, there would have to be approval by email to each post before it went on. It was agreed to set these up at the next meeting with the profiles to have been made available by the Chairman prior to the meeting so these were ready to be included. **Action: Chairman**

The contact information sheets and approval for photo consent would be sent round by Councillor Mabbett prior to the next meeting. **Action: Mabbett**

Youth Councillor Munday left the meeting.

23. To approve proposed Social Media Policy

The Social Media Policy was approved and it was agreed that this be left at an annual review due to the rate of change to social media and potentially this needing to be reviewed on a regular basis.

24. To approve proposed Safeguarding Policy

This policy was agreed and it was noted that this could have a longer review period which was agreed to be four years.

25. To consider the Youth Town Council Constitution

This had been circulated but amendments would now be necessary in relation to the elections and the primary school co-option. This would also need to be taken to the Policy Management and Finance Committee for approval. Councillor Mabbett would circulate the Constitution once amended. **Action: Mabbett**

26. To consider skate park provision

This would be considered at the next meeting in more detail. It was noted that there had not been any more meetings of the Crab Hill Forum for this to be discussed but that there had

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been a consultation event for the Crab Hill community facility that had just taken place on Saturday 14 October. The results of this would be requested. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

27. General correspondence and other business

The date of the Mayor's Carol Service was noted and it was agreed there was potential for a Youth Council/ Sweatbox combination performing a carol on the night. This would be taken forward with Sweatbox. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was requested that the leisure centre in its new form be added on to the next agenda and the boards that were used for the consultation would hopefully be brought along to the meeting. **Action: Deputy Clerk/Mabbett**

The next meeting date would be potentially Monday 13 November which was earlier than planned and would be confirmed by email. This could be followed by a meeting on Monday 11 December which would be an additional meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm
