

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Youth Town Councillors: Councillors H Goodman (Chairman), F Barr (part), M Lewis-Hughes, T Paxton-Doggett (part), E Rixon, J Wyndham-Rooke and B Wylde.

Town Councillors: Councillor B Mabbett

Others present: One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Youth Councillor L Munday.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 May 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

10. Statements and questions from the public

Mrs Hutchinson posed a question relating to Stockham Primary School. Questions had been raised by pupils from the Primary School related to the elections for the two outside spaces on to the Youth Council. These included whether the age restriction could be altered to allow for primary school aged students; whether a constitution for the Youth Town Council was available, and whether all of the candidates, both on the current Youth Town Council and going forward, lived in Wantage.

It was noted that all of the Youth Council were within a miles radius of the Town and that a constitution was available but that this needed to be formally accepted at a Policy Management and Finance Committee meeting.

Youth Councillor Barr arrived at the meeting.

It was noted that it would not be specific schools asked to enter into the Youth Council elections, but open to all based on living in or being very close to Wantage.

Mrs Hutchinson was thanked for attending the meeting and for her interest in the Youth Town Council.

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11. Matters arising from the previous minutes

a) Twitter and Facebook

It was discussed that a social media review had taken place through Love Wantage and that there were several Facebook pages for the Youth Town Council now available. Youth Councillor Collins would be asked to delete those pages to be able to start again with a new page. Alternatively, Councillor Mabbett would look into how to delete the other pages.

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

Templates have been prepared for a profile for each Youth Councillor and these would be forwarded round by the Chairman to all to fill in to then send to the Deputy Clerk. These would then be displayed on the Facebook page and on the noticeboard. **Action: Chairman**

Youth Councillor Paxton-Doggett arrived.

It was noted that Sylwia Korsak was willing to provide social media training and had teamed up with Sweatbox who would provide a venue for such training. An initial date had been suggested of Monday 3 July but this did not work for the majority of the Youth Councillors, hence a new date would be sought in term time in July. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The items were then taken out of order:

e) Involving more young people in local government

It was discussed that a relationship needed to be formed with primary schools within the area, particularly with an age restriction for the elections on to the Council. This could involve a visit to a different primary school every term, potentially through their student councils, then bringing back any issues to the Youth Council to consider. Contact would initially be made with each school to ascertain which system they had in place and also to try and make arrangements for visiting each. It was also noted that clarifying points for discussion with the Primary Schools prior to the visit would prove most effective in aiding discussion on the day.

A letter would be prepared to send off to the schools to make initial contact. This would be prepared by the Chairman and then forwarded to the Deputy Clerk to distribute.

Action: Chairman

The process for deciding the two spaces outside of KA's Academy still needed to be determined. The first step would be an email to be sent off to all of the schools in the area.

Action: Mabbett

b) Donations and grants

A donation request had been received from Opera Unmasked. This would be seeking £700 for a project called 'Young Voices of the Vale'. This would be a singing competition for solo voices open to all young people locally from 10 to 20 years of age. The donation would be put

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towards the costs which included venue hire, judges and accompanists, promotional design and leaflets and posters, printing as well as distribution. It was agreed that this project could be supported by the Youth Town Council, provided it was ascertained whether it would be for classical/opera or any form of singing and also what the likely reach would be.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Youth Councillor Goodman

SECONDED BY Youth Councillor Lewis-Hughes

IT WAS RESOLVED that the donation be offered to Opera Unmasked of £700 on the stipulation that credit was given to the Youth Town Council within the promotional material or programme.

The questions relating to the singing and reach would be taken back to Opera Unmasked before the donation approval was taken to the next Policy, Management and Finance meeting.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The donation form still needed to be altered in terms of highlighting youth provision and this would be taken to the next PM&F meeting to approve.

Action: Deputy Clerk

It was also noted that the South Central Ambulance Service were looking for greater interaction with youth and it was agreed it may be worth making contact with them to see if they could work in some way with the Youth Town Council.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The member of the public left the meeting.

c) Financial education

There had been a change in staff at KA's and discussions on the financial theme day would need to start again come the new school year. In addition, contact would be made with the Head of Business as to how this could be taken forward.

Action: Wyndham-Rooke/Chairman

d) Youth Town Council noticeboard

Information was still being prepared by the Youth Councillors. Further suggestions for information to be displayed included job and career information, university open days or advice on how to boost CV's. This would have to be fairly general so that it was not out of date too quickly. A list of local employers was also a potential for being displayed. This would be given more thought prior to the next meeting.

Action: All

f) Events in 2017

On Sunday 25 June the Armed Forces Day would be taking place and it was requested that as many of the Youth Town Councillors be there to visit the event or help to run it as possible. It was agreed that Youth Councillors Rixon, Wyndham-Rooke and the Chairman would be attending from the morning to help with Sweatbox and to be putting equipment and signage out.

Frances Ward would be contacted to let them know that they could be added on to the rota. In terms of the treasure hunt, this had been prepared and would include a small prize on

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completion and then entry into a draw for a larger prize. It was agreed that the Chairman would make the box for the entries. The Youth Council would be based next to the Sweatbox stall. Their stall would need a sign and decoration. **Action: Wyndham-Rooke/ Chairman**

The Chairman would prepare the treasure hunt slips and the letters for printing out and laminating and forward these on to the Deputy Clerk to print out and prepare.

Action: Chairman/Deputy Clerk

It was agreed that the word for the treasure hunt would be “camouflage” to go with the theme and that Councillor Mabbett would source the small prizes and that the Deputy Clerk would ask the military contact to source the larger prize. **Action: Mabbett/Deputy Clerk**

g) Civic visit to Seesen

The Chairman would be attending the civic visit and would be going as the Youth Representative with an aim to linking up with youth in the Seesen area. The Chairman would report back on return from his visit.

h) Wi-fi availability

It was agreed that the wi-fi availability varied considerably across the town and that, although several shops had their own wi-fi, that there was potential for the availability to be increased in the Manor Road Memorial Park area. This would need to be discussed with the District Council as to whether this could be improved and as an initial step, it would be taken to the next Joint Economic Finance meeting. **Action: Mabbett**

i) Pedestrian crossing Grove Road/Harcourt Way

Councillor Trinder had not yet reported back on his enquiries with the County Council concerning the operation of this crossing. **Action: Trinder**

12. General correspondence

None.

13. Any other matters to note

A “save the date” had been received for the Mayor’s Carols event which would be on 6 December 2017. The Youth Town Council wished to sing at the event this year and more thought would be given to the song in the next couple of months.

It was agreed that another meeting be slotted in prior to the summer break and this would take place on Wednesday 12 July. This would be in addition to the social media training session. The September meeting proposed was in the school holidays and therefore it was likely the next meeting after July would be 16th October.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm