

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Youth Town Councillors: Councillors H Goodman (Chairman up to item 2), F Barr (Chairman from item 2), L Munday, T Paxton-Doggett and E Rixon

Others present: Ms K Tolley – Young Peoples Coordinator, VOWHDC
One member of the public

Clerk: WP Falkenau

Apologies for absence

None.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

1. Statements and questions from the public

Mrs Hutchinson reported that Stockham School were electing a School Council that day and that the Chairman of the Youth Town Council was invited to attend a meeting at the school in about two weeks.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

It was resolved that Youth Councillor Barr be Chairman and that Youth Councillor Rixon be Vice Chairman.

3. Briefing by Ms Tolley, Young Peoples Coordinator, Vale of White Horse District Council

Ms Tolley reported that her role involved helping young people to gain skills and listening to the views of young people. She advised that the Wantage Youth Town Council was the only Youth Town Council in the Vale and South Oxfordshire District. She was interested to learn about the experiences of the Wantage Youth Town Council with a view to encouraging other towns and parishes to set up their own Youth Town Councils. She advised that she could arrange for other officers to attend Youth Town Council meetings to brief on a variety of topic matters. She would be interested in developing a case study based on the Wantage Youth Town Council with a view to it being distributed, as an example, to others.

In the discussion about achievements of the Youth Town Council over the past three years, it was mentioned that a booklet on financial education had been produced. Youth Councillor Goodman agreed to pass a copy of this to Ms Tolley. It was agreed that she could use this material elsewhere. **Action: Goodman**

It was also noted that the Constitution had been approved. The Clerk was to pass a copy to Ms Tolley. **Action: Clerk**

Ms Tolley was thanked for her briefing.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

a) Oxfordshire Healthwatch

The Clerk had not yet checked whether the Healthwatch leaflet was being displayed on the Youth Town Council noticeboard. **Action: Clerk**

b) Youth Town Council noticeboard

The Clerk had not yet acquired copies of the Town Team posters for display in the noticeboard. He reported that the Town Council was in the process of recruiting a Deputy Clerk who would attend to the Youth Town Council and would deal with these outstanding matters.

c) Elections and primary school involvement

Ms Tolley reported that the District Council could provide resources to assist with the elections. It was noted that there was a particular difficulty in engaging with youngsters attending schools outside KA's. Ms Tolley agreed to consider how this might be resolved. Youth Councillor Goodman had produced a power point presentation for the previous elections. He agreed to pass a copy of this to Ms Tolley. **Action: Goodman**

For the previous election candidates had produced manifestos and it was felt that this would be appropriate for the coming elections in March. It was noted that it would be acceptable for candidates to jointly prepare manifestos.

d) Social Media and website

There was a past action to publish profiles with photographs of Youth Councillors on the website. The profiles had been prepared but the photographs had not yet been taken. It was agreed to arrange for the photographs to be taken at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Youth Councillor Goodman was to brief the Chairman on the social media activity. It was noted that any entries for social media were to be passed to the Deputy Clerk for publication. It was agreed that there should be a standing item on future agendas: "Ideas for social media". It was suggested that agendas and minutes for the Youth Town Council should also be posted on social media (these were published on the Town Council website). It was suggested that the formal minutes may be too "unfriendly" for the youth audience and it was agreed that, at each meeting, a Youth Councillor be nominated to prepare "youth friendly" notes for posting to social media.

e) Youth Town Diary

There was a discussion about how to get a diary of youth relevant events in one place. It was felt that this might be best achieved by contacting the organisations that arrange youth events and asking them to supply information on events that they are planning to hold eg Sweatbox, Museum and Leisure Centre.

5. To consider whether there is a need to co-opt members to the Youth Town Council pending the elections next March

It was agreed that members be co-opted from the KA's Sixth Form and from Sweatbox. The Chairman was to contact the Head of the Sixth Form concerning. The Clerk was to contact Sweatbox. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**

6. General correspondence and other business

a) Volunteers Reception on 19 October 2018 at 6.30pm at The Beacon

It was noted that all Youth Town Council members were invited to attend the reception.

b) The Beacon

It was reported that the manager of The Beacon was keen to involve the youth of the town in activities at the Beacon. Members reported that there had been a strong interest in films that linked to topics and literature that they were studying at school. Ms Tolley agreed to contact Mr Laurence and Mrs Langley at KA's to ascertain what productions might be of interest.

Action: Ms Tolley

c) Achievements of the Youth Town Council

It was agreed that it would be helpful to conduct a review of what the Youth Town Council had done over the past three years to help inform future Youth Councillors.

d) Voting and election processes

Members felt it would be helpful for there to be a talk on the operation of electoral systems. Ms Tolley agreed to see if this could be arranged.

Action: Ms Tolley

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was to be held on 29 October 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm
