



Minutes of a meeting of the Chippenham Youth Council held at the Meeting Place, Town Hall, Chippenham on 26 February 2020 at 4.30pm.

**Youth Councillors present:**

Andrew Berry	Thomas Berry
Alana Bessant	Isobel Bessant
Arthur Brown	Finley Cozens-Stott
Ruby Eggleton	Ayla Erencan (Vice Chairman)
Faye Hadden	Declan Kiely (Chairman)
Alice Knight	Isabelle Pettinger
Amber Poulinet	Sophie Townson

**Officers present:** Heather Rae, Democratic Services Manager, Chippenham Town Council (CTC)  
Michael Weeks, Democratic and Civic Officer, CTC  
Esme Griffiths, Museum Assistant, CTC  
Elaine Davis, Engagement Officer, Museum, CTC  
Ollie Phipps, Community Engagement Manager, Wiltshire Council

**11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Youth Councillors Sofia Bessant, Catherine Hollis, Finn Longley-Brown and Kitty Sidaway.

**12. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

**14. SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Two Youth Councillors that weren't present at the first meeting agreed to the Terms of Reference and signed their Acceptance of Office forms.

**15. CONSIDERATIONS FROM TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

The Youth Council (YC) agreed that asking for two Councillor representatives as per item 11.6 of TOR would mean the Youth Council would be represented higher up in the community.

The YC considered how to promote Chippenham YC and gather opinions as per item 5.2 of TOR. They came up with the following:

- School assemblies, two members at each school could stand up at assemblies or in class at primary schools to promote the YC.
- Surgeries at school to allow young people to speak to members of the YC and pass ideas on.
- Social media - the YC voted all in favour of setting up a Chippenham YC Twitter account which could be used to promote the YC and connect with other people. This will need a code of conduct for use and some Youth Councillors could be appointed to help run the page. (Heather will speak to Communications Manager at the Town Council and report whether this can be done to the next meeting).
- Survey to find out what young people would like in Chippenham.
- Posters around town and in primary schools using class windows can be effective.
- School newsletters
- YC page on the Town Council website, this could be looked at and should include that the YC are always open to suggestions and contact details.
- A direct email could be set up for any queries sent to the YC (Heather will investigate this and report back).

## **16. HOMELESSNESS IN THE TOWN**

The YC considered what they could do to help homelessness in the town. They will look at fundraising, volunteering their time to help, creating packs of things that might help homeless people such as dog food. It was noted that Doorway have worked with schools but the YC would like to see this be more consistent and not just for one week. They would like to help people start a habit of donating things regularly throughout the year.

The YC voted all in favour of contacting Doorway and Unity House to invite them to a future meeting to discuss what the YC can do to help. (Heather will arrange).

## **17. SOCIAL CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The YC discussed what they could do to help young people be more social, through clubs, especially for shy young people. They noted that money can be an issue and many clubs are too expensive for young people, and asked whether there were any free clubs (Ollie has a list of free clubs which will be circulated with these minutes).

It was agreed that these should be advertised more, the YC could partner and advertise them in Schools. Some Churches host free groups that aren't necessarily religious.

A drama club was suggested as current ones are expensive or not in Chippenham. The YC considered making or running a free club where members could volunteer as each member would bring something different to the club. Ideas included homework club or games.

Michael suggested a grant may be available through Chippenham Borough Lands Charity. (Ollie will look into this and report back to the next meeting).

## BREAK

### 18. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS

HR Committee's question - 'what is your opinion on the new job role of tree officer?'

The YC discussed the job and had the following comments:

- Like what the job stands for locally and it would be good to have someone qualified.
- It would be good if the role could engage with schools and the YC to find out what they can do to help.
- It is important to recognise the people that are doing this, being sustainable to help the environment.
- Would the Town Council consider a YC member being on the interview panel for this job? (Heather will ask the Corporate Management Team).

### 19. FEEDBACK FROM AREA BOARD EVENT AND CLIMATE IDEAS

#### Feedback from Area Board Event:

- There should have been more on how they will advertise what they will do to the rest of the community and how public can volunteer and help out.
- The event needed more advertising.
- There wasn't a lot of general public there, Ollie noted it was the best attended area board with 137 attendees but that more public could have been there.
- The Town Council are considering holding a similar event, which would ask the YC to take part. (Heather will report more details when known).
- It could be advertised more on noticeboards and in newspapers for the public.
- People might not know what the 'Area Board Meeting' is and the word 'meeting' will put them off. The event should be explained to people.
- There is not a big understanding of how Local Government works and a lack of awareness, so it needs to be advertised more.
- The event was controlled being led by Councillors too much, more questions could have been directly asked to the public.

#### Climate issues

Single Use Plastic was discussed. Sheldon School had cut its plastic by 80% (Ayla will find out how Sheldon achieved this and bring to the next meeting).

Recycling bins are only in classes and people tend to use normal bins in the canteen. More education is needed to help students recycle and cut plastic. Plastic forks are still used and plastic packaging for some cold food. Declan noted that Hardenhuish had moved to biodegradable vegware cutlery, moving to metal cutlery had been discussed but people bin it anyway or don't return it.

More pressure should be put on businesses to move away from single use plastic. The YC could write a letter to local businesses, cafes and restaurants to challenge them on what they are doing to help combat plastic and offer suggestions.

Ollie stated that Malmesbury were planning to become a plastic free town (Ollie to bring info to next meeting).

Ollie and the Town Council have equipment to do litter picks as part of The Great British Spring Clean which the YC can take part in.

Due to lack of time the discussion on the other climate issues will continue at the next meeting of the YC.

## **20. COUNCIL EVENTS**

The YC agreed they would like to attend the following Council events and would discuss the details at future meetings:

-Wednesday 25 March - Full Council Meeting, to meet and update Councillors on YC plans.

-Wednesday 29 April - Town Meeting, to have a stand and to present the Youth Council's work

-Saturday 18 July - Purple Flag Assessment Event, to have a stand and talk to people about the Youth Council

Finn and Ayla requested some information about the YC that they could use at assemblies next week (Heather will send).

## **21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Manager of Stanley Park Sports Ground will come to the next meeting. Follow up on the items from these minutes including a twitter page, homelessness, social clubs and climate.

## **22. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Youth Council will be held on Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 4.30pm in the Education Room at the Chippenham Museum.

The meeting concluded at 6.03 pm

These Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting

Signed on behalf of the Committee as a true record of the meeting

Chairman:

Date: