



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Witney Youth Council held At 4.15 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney on Thursday 16th January 2025.

Youth Councillors Present:

Nine Youth Councillors (inc. Chair)

Witney Town Council Mentors Present:

Cllr J Aitman

Cllr G Meadows

Cllr R Smith (Witney Town Council Leader)

Cllr O Collins (Mayor of Witney)

Witney Town Council Officers' Present:

A Clapton – Deputy Town Clerk

A Hathaway – Business Administration Apprentice

P Inness – Communications & Community Engagement Officer

Three others were present at the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Simpson and one Youth Council Member.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Youth Council were advised that if they knew anyone related to or had any involvement in any of the items being discussed at the meeting, they should say it at this point.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Youth Councillors agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2024 were a correct record.

4. Guest Participation

Participants at the meeting spoke with the Youth Council.

- Community First Oxfordshire – Discussion on living in Witney as a young person.
- PC K Giles – Introduction to Witney Police and how to contact them.
- The Mayor of Witney, Cllr Owen Collins – Information on the Mayor role and his involvement with the Youth Council.

A Youth Council Member left at 16.45pm

5. Noticeboards in Schools

Members discussed acquiring noticeboards and placing them in schools under the responsibility of the Youth Council as a means of communication with other young people. The school canteen was agreed to be a convenient location for surveys and posters introducing the Youth Council, ensuring that it would need to be clearly different to the school Youth Council. The noticeboard could also hold educational posters on issues the Witney Youth Council are enthusiastic about, such as racism and charities.

The Leader of the Witney Town Council questioned the space they would need for this noticeboard, and the youth council agreed on a poster for the digital signage for now.

Resolved: That, the media officers further discuss the contents of this poster and design it for use on digital signage.

6. Questions from the Venue & Events Officer, Witney Town Council

Questions for the Youth Council

- **Where do you go to see what is happening in Witney? e.g., Instagram/School Posters (Daily Slides)/Notice Boards**

Members answered that it was Facebook and the A-boards in town.

- **What films would you go to see at the Corn Exchange? e.g. (Not released within the last few years.) Nostalgic films, Studio Ghibli, must be PG or 15 age rated.**

The Youth Councillors mentioned Indiana Jones and other similar action films, Studio Ghibli films, and Fast and Furious films, although they may not be age appropriate. Members also added that they like to watch romantic comedies, however, they would feel uncomfortable watching them in cinema. High school-age based rom-coms were highlighted as fun to go to with friends. Johnny English was brought up to be a favourite too.

Members mentioned commercial cinema sweets were too expensive, so selling cheaper sweets could be some competition. One Youth Councillor liked the idea of a pyjama film night. The Chair spoke about the possibility of a family and friends discount as they agreed they liked going to the cinema with their friendship groups and families. Tickets of four or paired tickets could be cheaper/paired with sweets or popcorn.

- **What events would you go to the Corn Exchange for? e.g., Arcade days, book clubs, writing clubs, art clubs, etc.**

The Chair brought up retro game nights, such as arcade games, Mario Kart, and old board games to do with friends. They also discussed the possibility of sports in the main hall as many of the youth councillors enjoy various sports after school.

The Leader of the Witney Town Council talked about the possibility of an event for either families or groups of young people to do an activity paired with a film, working with the work experience students to advertise it. There were no ideas for an activity, but the Youth Councillors approved of the idea of working with the work experience students.

- **Would you be more likely to go to a regular event or a one-off?**

The Chair brought up the opinion that one-off events were easy to miss, however, in their opinion, an event that was too regular could also get boring. They spoke about Witney Music Festival and the anticipation of one or two events a year. The Youth Councillors enjoy looking forward to it and talking about it with their friends.

Resolved: 1. That, the information above be fed back to the Venue & Events Officer.
2. That, a meeting be set up to discuss events further.

Two Youth Council Members left at 17.15pm

7. **Annual Surveys**

The survey draft made by the Business Administration Apprentice was agreed to be printed for discussion in the next meeting. The questions for the spring newsletter from the Youth Council were deferred to next year due to lack of time.

8. **Sporting Events**

Sporting events were postponed to a future youth council meeting.

9. **Winter Festival & Cultural Festival**

Youth Councillors discussed asking residents of Witney about their cultures and inviting a variety of people to the Culture Day that will be hosted as part of the Witney Music Festival. The group considered inviting the festival manager and a youth leader from detached youth service, The Station.

Resolved: That, those listed above are invited to the next meeting.

10. **Defibrillator Training**

The Youth Councillors agreed to postpone defibrillator training to later in the year after fundraising events. All members agreed it would be useful, however unsure that it would be an effective use of their budget early on.

Resolved: That proper training be deferred, but a free video on defibrillator use be issued to Members.

11. **Youth Council Branded Clothing**

Badges were agreed to be a good way of identifying the youth council members at events. Lanyards were also brought up by the Youth Councillors as an option. Both are to be explored and priced when the new logo is developed.

Resolved: 1. That, badges and lanyard prices are explored
2. That, the Youth Council applies for a Town Council £50 for fifty grant to cover the costs

A Youth Council Member left at 5.25pm

12. Youth Council Logo

The Youth Council Media Officer agreed to develop designs for the next Youth Council meeting. An additional smaller meeting with the media officers was also agreed upon.

Resolved: That, a meeting on a new Youth Council logo takes place prior to the next meeting so designs could be considered.

13. Items brought to members attention by the Town Clerk or Public

No items were raised for discussion by members of the public or the Town Clerk.

14. Items for Future Agenda

No items were raised for a future agenda of the Youth Council.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Youth Council is due in March 2025. The date was agreed to be confirmed in a poll sent out after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 17.45pm