

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON TUESDAY 4th March 2014
AT 5.00 pm**

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr Miss J Browne

Councillors: Cllr Miss C Allatt Cllr Miss L Judd Cllr C Shread
Cllr K Cronin Cllr Miss A Morris Cllr J Smith
[Item 2-end] Cllr Miss K Tuffin

Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Also Present: Cllr Mrs. P Allen, Link Councillor

Guest Speaker: Ben Hobbis, Youth Volunteering Service (Coleshill).

Public: 1 member of the public

1. Apologies.

The apologies received from Cllr Miss N Browne, Cllr B Clayton and Cllr D Payne were noted for the reason given. Cllr Miss G Raii and Cllr Miss N Strong were absent.

2. Co-option of Members.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Alicia Morris explained that she would like to be co-opted as a Youth Councillor to become more involved in the community and give her input. Following consideration, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Cronin, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the candidate be co-opted to join the Youth Council. A Declaration of Acceptance form was duly signed and witnessed and Cllr Miss Morris was welcomed by the Chairman to the Youth Council, with a badge being presented and photographs taken. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Cronin, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the declarations of acceptance of office be accepted.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Cronin, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7th January, 2014 having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Ben Hobbis, Youth Volunteering Service.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hobbis talked about the venture he was involved in and explained to members his own background. At Coleshill School he was involved in the Student Voice community with 90 students involved from Year 7 upwards. There were lots of opportunities to explore and he had benefitted from the training schemes that had been set up. In December a conference had been held and feedback from one Year 6 attendee said 'it was brilliant'. There had been requests to work in Coventry, Solihull, Norfolk and Birmingham and he was pleased with the developments happening. He wanted to expand in Coleshill further to include the wider community. He urged members to consider volunteering, which could be as simple as meeting another youth councillor to improve confidence and share ideas. He knew this Youth Council was well established and suggested members could get involved individually or collectively. Forms were tabled for members to consider completing and some members affirmed they would be interested in joining. Mr. Hobbis replied that when volunteering was undertaken, they would get assistance in putting details on their CV's.

ACTION

The Chairman asked what the council collectively could do and it was suggested that they could share best practice and what they had already learnt. Although there were restrictions sometimes, it could be possible to work with other adults and get advice together. He explained further about the vacancy roles he had advertised and confirmed that they were still open to applicants. The amount of time involved was flexible, with training available on how to manage your time. The Chairman asked this be on the next agenda and thanked Mr. Hobbis for his interesting talk.

ACTION

Members
6/5

Asst. Clerk
10/4

Members
6/5

5. Ideas and Questions from Councillors.

Cllr Mrs. Allen suggested that members apply for funding to the Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust for new plants for the Sensory Peace Garden. Following suggestions by Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Miss Tuffin and the Chairman, **IT WAS AGREED** members would be asked to consider these further at the next meeting as agenda items: Keep Fit project; Solihull in Bloom, Website Design of Youth Council Information and Special Events 2015 (eg to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta— see <http://magnacarta800th.com/>).

6. Questions from the Public.

None.

7. Report from Representatives.

The Chairman reported that on 28th February and 1st March she had attended the Practitioner's Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to give a presentation on How to Set up a Youth Council. This was given to about 70 clerks and she had enjoyed talking about the many achievements of the Youth Council. It had also been possible to show the DVD and many councils from England and Wales had requested copies.

8. Working Party Reports.

After discussing options, it was agreed that a working party would be held for all members to look at the needs of the Sensory Garden and future projects on Tuesday 22nd April from 10.30 – 12 noon. Venue to be confirmed (either the Council Office or Solihull MBC if the Mayor was available to meet members). Members are asked to visit the Sensory Peace Garden prior to this meeting so that they were familiar with current planting.

Clerk/PA
asap

9. Youth Council Projects/Visits.

9.1 Members watched with great interest and enjoyment the DVD on How To Set Up A Youth Council that had been produced in partnership with Park Hall Academy. The DVD was commended as excellent and congratulations were expressed to the students who had produced it. They in turn were pleased to report that they had gained from the experience and the project had been a successful part of their coursework. Production arrangements would need to be agreed.

Clerk
tbc

9.2 Members were asked to confirm their availability to visit parliament for a tour which would take place on Monday 7th July at 11.20 am. It was anticipated that 13 members would be accompanied by Cllr Mrs. Allen and the Clerk, with 5 places potentially being offered to the adult council. Travel arrangements would then need to be made and firm commitments made.

9.3 Members agreed they would like to visit the Civic Suite and meet the Mayor of Solihull, in addition to attending a Borough Council meeting from the public gallery. As earlier discussed, enquiries would be made to see if the April working party might be held at the Civic Suite.

10. West Midlands Police – Knife Surrender Bins.

Members discussed the question posed by a Youth Police Commissioner (and future guest speaker) and following consideration the matter was deferred due to uncertainty.

11. Youth Unemployment – Prince’s Trust Statement.

Following brief consideration, **IT WAS AGREED** to note this matter with interest.

12. Clerk’s Report.

The Clerk returned to the 8th Practitioners’ Conference held by the Society of Local Council Clerks on 28th February – 1st March, referred to earlier by the Chairman. Although in the past the Clerk had assisted with some of the arrangements and hosted or introduced speakers, this conference was slightly different and will be remembered forever by her. She had been extremely proud and privileged to chair two workshop sessions, introducing Youth Councillor Jessica Browne who gave a confident delivery of an inspiring and informative presentation which was amazing. Her ambassadorial role in promoting this council, her fellow Youth Councillors and Castle Bromwich had to be seen to be believed. Whilst the Chairman had been grateful to the Clerk for the chance to make a presentation (with permission being given from her school and parents to attend the conference), the Clerk believed that this council should in fact be indebted to her for an incredible performance. The new DVD on How to Set Up a Youth Council was played and 26 councils had requested copies and additional information. The Clerk had also attended sessions and presentations on How to Win Friends and Influence People; Coats of Arms – acquiring it, using it and protecting it; Dealing with People; Year End Finance; Quotes, Contracts and Tendering. The final session was listening to Alastair Humphreys, a motivational speaker who shared parallels with the Clerk’s role with his adventures cycling around the world. It was a busy conference but packed with highlights and inspiration from both speakers and fellow clerks – but this time topped by an incredible pride in the achievements of this Youth Council and its enthusiastic and capable Chairman.