

Youth Council Steering Group

5 August, 2020

4:00pm

Notes

Present:

Cllr Victoria Alcock (VA)

Cllr Gill Cleeve (GC)

Lisa Cowley (LC)

Cllr Tony Jackson (TJ)

Cllr Philip How (PH)

Cllr Kate Rolfe (KR)

Sarah Summers (SS)

All members attended the meeting via Zoom

1. To Elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that Cllr Gill Cleeve be appointed
Chairman of the Youth Council Steering Group
for the ensuing year.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RESOLVED: that Cllr Victoria Alcock be appointed
Deputy Chairman of the Youth Council Steering
Group for the ensuing year.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Terms of Reference/Constitution

GC referenced the draft Terms of Reference/Constitution she had constructed which was based on a template from Ross-on-Wye's Youth Council.

It was decided that this template was a good starting point but that the content should be ultimately decided by the Youth Council members.

SS had been in touch with other Parish Councils who have had experience with setting up a Youth Council. She advised that some parishes have found the Youth Council concept very helpful but that we should not underestimate the time and effort that it will take to set up and maintain. SS also noted that this group would need a budget set in future.

There was a discussion regarding the age range that should be allowed to join the Youth Council. It was agreed that although we could set the age limit for the Youth Steering Group, the Steering Group should then be allowed to make the decision regarding the age range in the actual Youth Council.

4. Press & Social Media

It was agreed that this project should be promoted with an official press release on the Town Council website and in the Herald newspaper. However, it was thought that in order to attract the youth, focus should be on advertising the initiative through social media. It was believed that Instagram in particular was popular with the age group that we are trying to attract, but that we should also use Facebook and Twitter to also appeal to parents.

5. Members

- **How and when to recruit young members;**

It was decided that we should put the word out about this now via social media. We will ask for submissions comprising of a short paragraph to explain why the individual would be keen to join the Youth Council. These submissions could be sent to the info@stratford-tc.gov.uk email inbox and LC will compile them for consideration.

- **How many members;**

It was agreed that whilst we would review the number of members of the Steering Group when submissions are

received, the official Youth Council should comprise of 12 members.

- **Should they represent wards, schools/clubs/organisations?**

After a discussion it was decided that we would not target individual groups or schools at this stage and that we would publish across our social media platforms in order to be inclusive.

SS said she would investigate how other Youth Councils have been elected in other towns, although it was thought that in-house elections would be less time consuming. This would allow the steering group to elect the full Youth Council members much like committee members electing their chairman or a political party voting for their leader.

It was agreed that members should live in Stratford-upon-Avon town, and that the members should represent the whole town and not just specific wards.

It was ultimately decided that the initial pitch should specify that we are looking for enthusiastic individuals between the ages of 13 – 18 to join the Youth Town Council Steering Group (this does not necessarily mean they will be on the official Youth Town Council). We will specify that applicants must live within the town boundary and ask that they send in a short paragraph to explain why they would like to join. They can send in their submissions to either info@stratford-tc.gov.uk or by posting/hand-delivering to the Town Hall.

6. Date for first steering group meeting with the young members

It was agreed that the deadline for submissions should be Friday 4 September and that the first meeting with younger members should take place at 4:30pm on Thursday 17 September. It was thought that meeting at the Town Hall instead of on Zoom would be good for members, but this would be dependent on government guidelines.

It was suggested that a meeting of this group should be scheduled in order to discuss submissions. This meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 September at 4:00pm.

This meeting closed at 5:11pm.