

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

VIRTUAL YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

In accordance with s78 of the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

10 June, 2021

Open Minutes pages 1 – 5

Present:

Youth Councillors:

Kerry Alcock            Isabel Lambourn  
Danni Cleeve            Saul McDougall.  
Aiden Drinkwater      Alfie Walker  
Oli Hughes

Town Councillors: Gill Cleeve, Kevin Taylor (Mayor)

Clerks:                    Absent

Press:                    Absent

Public:                    None

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Before the meeting began, the Chair wished Lisa Cowley the Committee Clerk a speedy recovery

92) Apologies

Apologies were received by Alfie Walker, Eva Key

Amelia Betts & Bianka Pawlowska was absent from the meeting.

93) Declarations of Interest

Danni declared an interest in agenda item 7, minuted as 98.

94) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no requests.

95) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

96) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

97) To Approve Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 29 April, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 29 April, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

98) Presentation from Clare Thomas of Stratford Music Network regarding music opportunities for young people in the Town.

Members welcomed Clare Thomas to the meeting.

Clare began by explaining that Stratford Music Network was established a couple of years ago at a place in Stratford called Stratford Music Centre which provided music tuition and where a 'Rock School' was held.

The Rock School was open to children between the ages of 13 to 18 and required three years of experience playing an instrument – guitar, keyboard, drums etc. Bands would be formed which would then go on to play gigs at the end of the year. Unfortunately, for the numerous reasons this programme closed so Clare decided to facilitate some of the bands in her home.

Clare went on to explain that after a little while it came to light that every member of the bands had an issue in one way or another whether it be regarding physical illness or mental health. The music gave members a creative outlet for their difficulties.

Within eight weeks of these two bands forming, they performed a gig for 250 people at Stratford Playhouse, and raised money for Children in Need. Clare explained the benefit of performing in an

actual theatre rather than a church hall or school – the professional lighting and sound allowed members to feel like a real rockstar.

Eventually, Stratford Music Network was formed which is a Community Interest Company. Any profits made will go straight back into the organisations. Bands are now widening their reach, from Stratford, to Warwick, Hatton, Alcester etc. through the Spark Music Programme. Individuals do not need any previous musical experience to join this programme.

The Spark Music Programme allows bands to learn songs, write original songs, record at a recording studio, and perform gigs. However, there is also the 'off-stage' element of the programme which includes ticket/flying design, refreshments, band names, merchandise, photography, sound, lighting, front of house etc.

From the middle of June or July (dependant on covid restrictions) there will be Friday night gigs held in Stratford with tickets sold at only £1.00. This would also allow for work experience opportunities for young people in marketing, sound, lighting etc.

Members thanked Clare for her presentation.

99) To consider the Warwickshire County Council Arts Challenge

This matter was discussed, and subject to selecting the artist, and them designing the right input for the young people.

It was AGREED: that only light involvement was necessary, such as 1 – 2 meetings with the selected artist to help the artist respond to the wants/needs of a group of young people.

100) Consider a campaign for gender neutral toilets.

This matter was discussed, and all members were in agreement that the issue of gender-neutral toilets was an important one, especially as affects young people and adults of the LGBTQ community the same.

It was AGREED: that a Task & Finish Group should be set up to discuss plans on how to start the campaign.

101) Consider set pre-meet agenda dates.

This matter was discussed, and it was thought that instead of changing the day these meetings are held on, it was perhaps a better idea to change their frequency. It was agreed that this would allow for more productivity from the group as well as fitting in better with the timetables of those who have exams etc.

It was AGREED: that as the Youth Town Council are now meeting every six weeks a pre-meet would be essential to keep the connection.

102) Date of Next Youth Town Council Meeting

The next virtual Meeting of the Youth Town Council will take place at 5:00pm on Thursday 22 July, 2021.

*The Chair declared the virtual meeting closed at 5:54 pm.*