

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

4 February, 2021

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Present:

Youth Councillors:

Kerry Alcock	Isabel Lambourn
Danni Cleeve	Saul McDougall
Oli Hughes	Bianka Pawlowska
Eva Key	Alfie Walker

Town Councillors: Gill Cleeve, Philip How, Tony Jackson

Clerks: Admin Clerk

Press: Absent

Public: Daniel Browne, Chair of Warwickshire Pride

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N.B. Deputy Chair, Kerry Alcock chaired this meeting in the absence of Chair, Aiden Drinkwater.

40) To Welcome New Member, Isabel Lambourn

41) Apologies

Apologies were received by Amelia Betts, Aiden Drinkwater and William Winter.

Hope French was absent from the meeting.

42) Declarations of Interest

Kerry declared an interest in item 10.1 on the agenda, minuted as 49.

Saul declared an interest in item 10.2 on the agenda, minuted as 50.

- 43) To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no requests.

- 44) To grant any requests for dispensation

There were no requests.

- 45) Public Participation

No one had registered to speak in Public Participation.

- 46) To Approve Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 7 January, 2021

RESOLVED: The Draft Minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 7 January, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

- 47) Stratford Youth Forum (SYF) Feedback

Alfie was pleased to announce that since the adoption of the constitution, two more executive committee positions have been allocated to the SYF. The SYF now has two co-chairs, a secretary and two executive officers.

Alfie gave feedback on the projects that SYF have been working on in recent months. These include:

- Careers project – due to the pandemic, there has been a delay with this. However, it has been suggested that a survey is done with young people to get an idea of different career goals. It is thought that SYF could collaborate with the YTC on this to expand the reach to as many youths as possible;
- Mental health project – a weeklong mental health campaign will be promoted via social media after half term

in order to help combat stress and anxiety, especially surrounding the current situation;

- Raising awareness of endometriosis – this project is still in its planning stages;

#### 48) Warwickshire Pride Presentation

Members welcomed Daniel Browne to the meeting.

Daniel began his presentation by explaining that Warwickshire Pride is a local charity which runs a number of services and social events for LGBT+ people across the county.

Daniel explained that Warwickshire Pride has been running for ten years and it started as a LGBT youth group. It eventually started to grow, and many services were added such as coffee mornings, social and sports events, training courses and more. Daniel noted that before the first lockdown, Warwickshire Pride were doing a lot of work in Stratford-upon-Avon, and although physical events cannot currently be held, a lot is still being done to support people in this area.

The first Warwickshire Pride festival took place in Leamington Spa in August 2013 and attracted around 2,000 people. Due to the pandemic, the festival took place online in 2020 and it is looking likely that this will also be the case in 2021.

The Proud Youth Stratford group is usually held at Foundation House between 2:30pm and 4:30pm every Saturday. However, since the first lockdown these sessions are being held via Zoom at 6:00pm every Thursday. This group aims to be a safe space where LGBT youth can be themselves, relax and escape negativity. Whilst mostly focused on social activities such as games and art, some educational sessions are also held on subjects such as personal safety, hate crime, drug and alcohol etc.

Daniel emphasised that Warwickshire Pride cannot do all the work alone and relies on support from other organisations such as Stratford Town Trust who provide Foundation House as a setting for their weekly meetings. He also expressed the importance of allies. An ally is a heterosexual and cisgender

person who supports gender equality, and LGBT social movements, challenging homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. Daniel stressed that whilst legal equality has improved, community equality still needs work.

Alfie asked for advice on acronyms and which is the most respectful to use.

Daniel responded that the full acronym is LGBTQQIP2SAA which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer, Intersex, Pansexual, Two-Spirit (2S), Androgynous and Asexual. Due to the length of this the most common acronym used is LGBT+, however individuals may choose the acronym that most applies to them.

Members thanked Daniel for his presentation.

#### 49) Gender Neutral Clothing

Kerry asked for this item to be included on the agenda. Kerry and others have noticed that in clothes shops, clothing is labelled as either 'Girls' or 'Boys' or 'Women' or 'Men'. However, not everybody identifies themselves as fitting into these labels.

There was a discussion regarding the best way to tackle this issue. Daniel commented that he thought that this would be a worthwhile campaign and suggested that we could contact the New Look store on the Maybird Centre, who are very supportive of Pride.

It was AGREED: that a Task & Finish group should be set up to discuss how best to proceed with this campaign.

#### 50) Music Opportunities

Saul McDougall asked for this item to be put on the agenda as he strongly believes that music is good for emotional expression. Saul believes there is a lack of music opportunities in Stratford-upon-Avon especially for youths.

The Covid-19 pandemic makes live concerts or music events extremely difficult to arrange at this time so members discussed

some virtual possibilities, such as virtual concerts or competitions.

During the first lockdown, many choirs around the company sang songs or hymns via Zoom and then compiled them together to make a video. It was suggested that something similar could be done with instruments,

It was AGREED: to invite Clare Thomas from Stratford Music Network to a future meeting to give further advice on this.

#### 51) Topics/Speakers

There were two suggestions for a speaker for the next meeting. These were:

- @leogoldenchildofficial (Instagram username), Life Coach and Black Lives Matter Supporter;
- Clare Thomas, Stratford Music Network.

It was AGREED: that we would invite Leo to the March meeting and Clare to the April meeting.

#### 52) Date of Next Youth Town Council Meeting

The next virtual Meeting of the Youth Town Council will take place at 5:00pm on Thursday 4 March, 2021.

*The Chair declared the virtual meeting closed at 5:56pm.*