



**Minutes of Youth Council Meeting
Tuesday 12 January 2021
Minutes**

Chair: Diane Butler

Vice Chair: Wendy Cockbill

Apologies: Matthew, Megan, Sonny

Absent: Max, Tomor

**Guests: Nikki Luke Houses of Parliament Education Team
Steve Williams Houses of Parliament Education Team**

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from previous minutes

2. UK Parliament Nikki and Steve

The Chair welcomed Nikki and Steve from the Houses of Parliament. Nikki explained that she is the Outreach Officer for the East of England and Steve is the Outreach Officer for Wales. Nikki thanked the Youth Council for inviting them to their meeting. Nikki's presentation (PowerPoint attached), explained how Parliament works and how young people can get involved.

2.1 Questions and comments from the Youth Councillors

How do they go from House of Commons to the House of Lords?

A law is called a bill and can start in either house but govt are in the house of commons

A bill is presented and can be ping pong.

How long does it take for a bill to be passed?

About a year. Not everything is discussed. It can be done quickly but also can take longer.

Do MP's have to live in the constituency or be from there?

No, they spend half of their time in the House of Commons and half in their constituency.

Sometimes they live in London and then go back to their constituency.

What kind of job can healthcare have in Parliament?

Select committees

2.2 Discussion about MP's and their work

There are 3 MP's in the Epping Forest district: The Right Honourable Eleanor Laing, Robert Halfon and Alec Burghart. Eleanor Laing is also the Deputy Speaker. She ensures the debates stay fair and orderly. Nikki told how June Eric-Udorie contacted her MP to get feminism put back on her A Level course.

Nikki explained that anyone can contact their MP. When doing so, include:

What is the issue?

Why is it important to you?

Why is it important to your MP?

What would you like your MP to do?

Always include your postcode

House of Lords

You become a member of the House of Lords by being chosen for being an expert. You can nominate yourself or someone else. The House of Lords is a whole range of people, they take all the bills and ideas and use their knowledge to make decisions.

Making a petition

You can be any age to start a petition.

You can get involved at any age.

Petitions with over 10,000 signatures receive a response from the Government.

Petitions with over 100,000 are considered for a debate in Parliament.

You can still do a paper petition

Best to do it on the Parliament website

How can you get your voice heard?

Register to vote

Contact your MP

Sign or start a petition

Action: Youth Councillors to look up some Lords and Baronesses and give some names to Di to invite to a meeting.

The Chair thanked Nikki and Steve for attending our meeting and giving such valuable information to the Youth Councillors.

3. The High Sheriff and Portfolio Holder, Councillor Holly Whitbread

Next Tuesday the High Sheriff will be attending the Youth Council meeting. All Youth Councillors need to research about the work of the High Sheriff and prepare some questions to ask about her work. She represents law and order too. She also gives us funding for our projects. Sammy, Alec, Martin and Daniel have sent questions.

Councillor Holly Whitbread will also be joining us. Please prepare questions for her too.

4. Christmas Chocolate donations

Due to the lockdown restrictions, those Youth Councillors who weren't able to collect their Christmas chocolates before Christmas, will be out of date by the time the lockdown finishes. Discussions took place regarding who they could be donated to. It was unanimously agreed

that they would be given to staff working in the Intensive Care Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital as a token of appreciation.

5. Microsoft Teams

Harriette and Samantha cannot access Teams on their iPads. Both need to contact Wendy to solve this.

6. iPad passwords

It appears that many Youth Councillors are not using their iPads for their work. All must start to use them regularly or the Council will request them back. If Youth Councillors have problems with their passwords, please contact Wendy. Youth Councillors should not change the passwords as Wendy will this arranged securely.

7. Any Other Business

7.1.1 Worries, GCSE's and pressures

A short discussion took place about any worries the Youth Councillors have at present due to the pandemic and changes in their lives. Di and Wendy reiterated that they could contact them if they need to talk.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 6.50pm

Action: Please email Wendy once you have read and understood the minutes, as well as any actions that need to be completed.