

Epping Forest Youth Council Meeting

Minutes

2 November 2021

Chairman: Natalie Moffatt

Vice Chairman: Sydnae Smith

Attendance:

Natalie Moffatt, Sydnae Smith

Officers: Wendy Cockbill, Diane Gilson-Butler, Gill Wallis

Guest speakers: Chairman Cllr Helen Kane, Cllr. Chris Whitbread, Cllr. Holly Whitbread

Apologies: Cllr Aniket Patel, Aliza Zarras, Cameron Khadem

Item 1.

Welcome from Natalie Moffatt chairman and Vice Chairman Sydnae Smith.

Item 2.

Guests join the Youth Councillors for the official Youth Council photo for the 2020 - 2022. This has been the first opportunity due to lockdown restrictions.

Cllr Holly Whitbread attended in Cllr Aniket Patel's absence. It was noted that Cllr Patel will be joining the Youth Council on 7th December.

The chairman reminded everyone that previous plans to meet in person, was not possible due to the lock down. Instead the Youth Councillors met weekly on zoom, and amongst their guest were Cllr. Holly Whitbread and Councillor Kane.

Item 3.

Cllr Helen Kane, the Chairman of Epping Forest district council, welcomed the Youth Councillors and thanked them for hard work and achievements during the pandemic.

Item 4.

Cllr Chris Whitbread, the Leader of Epping Forest district council, also thanked the Youth Council and talked about the resilience of young people. He was also keen to see everything return to normal post Covid.

Item 5.

Cllr Holly Whitbread, the Housing Services Portfolio Holder, welcomed the Youth Councillors and reflected upon her time serving as a Youth Councillor in 2008 - 2012. Holly is now a district and Essex County Councillor.

Item 6.

Georgina Blakemore, the Chief Executive of the Epping Forest District Council, welcomed the Youth Council and praised them for their achievements for continuing to meet during lock down and for taking part in consultations, that are important to the district.

Item 7.

Gill Wallis, the Service Manager for Community, Culture and Wellbeing congratulated the Youth Council for their project work, especially on their survey about the effects Covid C19 had on young people. The Communities team had been working hard to help all ages through the extraordinary times and thanked the Youth Council for supporting this work.

Item 8.

Questions and Answers.

The Chair reported that the Youth Councillors had thoroughly enjoyed their first year in office. That they were planning a high-profile Youth Climate Action Conference for the 19 November at the civic offices. They were also supporting their peers in school, to help run their election campaigns for February 2022.

Daniel reported that the structure of having weekly Youth Council meetings and project work, enabled them all to get through the lock down. They were able to make new friends from different schools and towns on zoom.

Martin reported that had met some amazing people on zoom, such as the High Sheriff of Essex and David Vincent, the BAFTA winner for the programme 'Who Do You Think you are'.

Sydnae reported that the experience had been amazing and thanked the District Council for their support and encouragement.

Item 9.

Presentation of two Jack Petchey Award's.

The Chairman, Councillor Kane presented the awards. The winner of the Jack Petchey Award for Summer 2021 was presented to **Sonny Bazzoni**. Sonny was nominated by his peers, as he is a kind and helpful member of the group, he has great ideas for the Youth Council projects. He is a dedicated youth councillor, as he represents the Youth Council on several groups including the Independent Advisory Group and the Epping Youth Strategy Group.

The winner of the Jack Petchey Award for Autumn 2021 was presented to **Sydnae Smith**. Sydnae has been nominated by her peers as she is kind to everyone. She is

always willing to contribute and help at meetings. She is dedicated and committed to her work as a youth councillor. Sydnae has grown in confidence. She is always Happy and makes everyone feel good about themselves.

The Epping Forest Youth Council Cup is presented to 4 Youth Councillors over the year. It is presented for their outstanding work and commitment to the Youth Council. The Youth Council cup was awarded to Aliza Zarras. Aliza has demonstrated her outstanding commitment to her work as a Youth Councillor, Aliza is passionate about mental health and well-being and on zoom she made short films on how to make things including a face mask. Aliza has been a great Youth Council ambassador at Youth council meetings and Young Essex Assembly meetings.

Item 10. Any other business?

None

The next meeting: Tuesday 7 December.