



Epping Forest  
Youth Council

## MINUTES

**Committee:** Epping Forest Youth Council                      **Date:** Tuesday, 15 May 2012

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping                      **Time:** 7.00 - 9.00 pm

**Members Present:** O Tinker (Chairman), M Albert, V Armitage, E Dolan, J McIvor, N Miller, I Padwick, E Gokmen, G Perry, H Qadri, C Sander, I Sheikh, E Foster, A Williams, J Collins, E Yamah, C Barry, S Cockram and S Cascarina

**Apologies:** B Valera

**Officers Present:** D Butler (Young Persons Officer), L Eales (Youth Council Administrator), R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant) and G Wallis (Community Development Officer)

**Guest Present**

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### 1. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

Noted that Olivia would be Chairman for the meeting and Jaymey was Vice-Chairman.

### 2. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2012 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 3. WEST ESSEX COMMUNITY SEXUAL HEALTH TEAM

Unfortunately the West Essex Community Sexual Health Team were unable to attend.

### 4. YOUTH PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Diane informed Members that the previous Youth Councillors had hosted a 'Youth Project of the Year' awards, which involved Members completing undercover surveys on the Youth services around the District. Members were asked to visit Youth Clubs around the District of their choice and mark them on the services they deliver. This had been completed the two previous years, followed by an awards evening held in October which the best service received a trophy.

Diane had compiled a schedule of names and clubs that she thought would be suitable for Members to visit within a close distance of where they lived. This could be altered to suit, if Members wanted to visit other areas. A survey had been created

by previous Members to assess the clubs but this could be adapted by the new Members.

Diane asked Members to consult the schedule and if they had any problems to contact her by email.

**ACTION:** Youth Councillors to start researching the clubs and find out what activities were available for Young people in the District.

## 5. SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

Diane advised that the Safer Communities Partnership had contacted the Youth Council to complete a Crime and Disorder Survey, to help identify local issues causing resident concerns.

## 6. TORCH RELAY VOLUNTEERS

Diane advised that the Olympic torch would be going through the District in Waltham Abbey on 7 July 2012 at 8:25 a.m. A special festival was being hosted for this occasion after the torch had been passed on to the next Borough in Waltham Abbey Gardens. There would be lots of pitches, games, food; alongside this the museum would be opening a new exhibition in celebration of the previous Olympics in China being handed over to United Kingdom.

Diane asked for volunteers and with the overwhelming response from the Youth Council it was thought that a pitch could be created to promote the new Youth Council.

**ACTION:** Diane would distribute details of the event to all Members.

## 7. CONSULTATION ON DOG CONTROL ORDER

Becky informed Members that Youth Councillors would be looking at the decisions that the adult Councillors were making for the District, and if they felt strongly about any of the decisions that they should be making their feelings and thoughts of Young people known.

The Cabinet had made a decision in April 2012 to consult the public on dog control order in respect of;

- (a) the fouling of land by dogs and removal of dog faeces;
- (b) the putting, and keeping a dog on the lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer; and
- (c) limiting the number of dogs which a person may take onto any land to four.

Members were asked whether they had any opinions that they felt should be taken into consideration as these orders could affect the fields they use and as dog owners themselves what they thought.

Members discussed the merits of the allowing some type of control over dog owners and the mixed feelings of some dog owners not controlling their dogs in open public space, which were for everyone and that most dog owners were responsible.

**AGREED** that details of the cabinet report would be sent to members and that they would like to comment on the consultation.

**ACTION:** Becky would contact the relevant officers, so that Youth Councillors could voice their opinions.

## 8. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

(i) Chairman for the next meeting would be Jaymey and Grace would be Vice Chairman.

(ii) Business for consideration at the next meeting;

- Hamzah – Would like to discuss the skate park facilities at Stonards Hill.

**ACTION:** Hamzah to find out more details about the problems with the skate park at Stonards Hill, Epping.

- Aaron – Would like to contact the local bus companies about the condition of the buses.

**AGREED** that this would be a future consideration.

- Iffah – Car Security

**ACTION:** Diane would contact the Safer Communities Team to attend a future meeting to give Members advise.

- Edward Yamah – Problems with road safety for pupils on Turpins' Lane.
- Jaymey – Buses running from St John's school and what the procedures for banning unruly pupils.

**AGREED** that this would be a future consideration.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Notices by Gill/Lucy/Diane;

- Gill advised Members that District Elections had recently taken place on 3 May 2012, resulting in an increase of 2 Loughton Resident Association Members and 2 Conservatives Members who now have the overall majority. This makes Epping Forest Council a Conservative run Council, although Epping Forest Youth Councillors are A-political.

- Gill was also attending a Youth Strategy board within the next couple of weeks who would be deciding on the funding for locally run Youth Services and what would be closing due to the financial cuts. She would like a Youth Councillor to become a board Member and would advise whether this was possible.

- Gill wanted to remind Youth Councillors that the Community Development team produce a brochure of activities for young people each summer and that there were opportunities to be involved or attend these events.

- Lucy advised that each school had been supplied with EYFC leaflets to be distributed around the school informing pupils of the new Youth Councillors.

- Lucy was compiling the summer edition of Youth Council newsletter and she needs a volunteer to write about themselves. She would also like 3 to 4 volunteers to

write articles for the autumn edition and start gathering photographs and stories for September.

**AGREED** that Stacey would produce a piece on herself for the summer edition.

**AGREED** that Katie, Ella, Edward Gokmen and Hamzah would compile and collect items for the autumn edition of the news letter.

- Lucy asked Members if they could not make any training or meetings to advise either herself or Diane by text message.
- Lucy informed Members that after each training session she would be asking Members to complete evaluation forms to assess the quality of training.
- Diane advised Members that Jaymey had produced a poster promoting the new Youth Councillors for St John's School and that this was a good way of letting other young people know about the Youth Council.
- Youth Council Award – Diane advised Members that every 4 months the officers decide on a Youth Councillor that has gone above and beyond their normal duties, to be awarded the Youth Council Award. A small trophy is presented to the winner along with an invitation to the Annual Civic Awards and dinner.
- Jack Petchy 'Speak Out' event – Diane advised that 2 Youth Councillors were invited to sit on the judging panel for the 'Speak Out' event being held at Davenant School on Wednesday 16 May 2012. Also there were 10 seats available for other Members.

**AGREED** that Sam and Victoria would attend as judges.

- Fyfield Parish Council had invited Youth Councillors to their annual meeting.

**AGREED** that Max would attend with Diane.

- Way 2000 had invited Members to attend a meeting.

**AGREED** that Tash and Josh would attend as representatives as they also lived in Waltham Abbey.

- Vicky Young – Head of Youth Services in Essex

**AGREED** that Vicky Young would attend a future meeting.

- David Bishop – St Clare's Hospice

**AGREED** that a small group of Youth Councillors would visit the hospice. Diane would arrange.

#### **10. DATE(S) FOR NEXT MEETING(S)**

The next meeting would be held 12 June 2012 at 19.00 – 21.00, Civic Offices.

**CHAIRMAN**