

HUNTINGDON YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Youth Town Council was held at the **Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday 2nd November 2011 at 4.30pm.**

Present: Youth Councillors H Buttriss; K Gillman; S Harris; R Harrold; Josh Marshall; C Morgan (Chairman) ; C Parkinson; & E Walker.

In attendance: Ms Karen Badlan, Anglian Ruskin University & Claire Tunnicliffe, Deputy Town Clerk.

70. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Youth Councillor A Moreton & C Parkinson.

71. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Huntingdon Youth Town Council meeting held on 5th October 2011 (M9) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman, it was therefore

RESOLVED that the minutes were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

72. **FINANCE**

Youth Councillor Marshall, as Treasurer, referred to a report before Youth Councillors showing total income and expenditure to date with a balance of £2,105.47 available.

It was

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.

73. **YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Karen Badlan from Anglia University and invited Ms Badlan to address the meeting.

Ms Badlan began by explaining that she was part of the Childhood and Youth Research Institute (CYRI) of Anglia Ruskin University, whose aim is to produce high quality research and a body of principles and practices to ensure that the Institute's knowledge about children and young people's lives are trustworthy and valid. Within the Institute Ms Badlan explained that her work came under the Faculty of Health, Social Care & Education.

Ms Badlan informed Members that she was currently in her first year of PhD research on the subject of how young people understand politics. As part of her research, Ms Baldan had worked with two youth organisations in the local area to investigate political literacy in Cambridgeshire. Youth Councillors were handed a questionnaire which the groups had completed. The data of the questionnaire would be analysed next spring.

Ms Badlan advised Members that she was looking for a different group of young people to take part in the second stage of her research which was yet to be formalised. To help develop the topics of research Ms Badlan explained that she would like to discuss why Members had joined the Youth Town Council.

Asked what had motivated them to join the Youth Council, Youth Councillor Walker spoke about being given a voice to represent young people's opinions on what was happening in their area. Youth Councillor Harrold spoke about the satisfaction gained from providing something for young people locally and told Ms Badlan of the recent Battle of the Bands and Huntingdon has Talent events.

The Chairman spoke of the experiences that she had gained from running events to presenting reports to Council Members at the Leisure & Community Services meeting, which had developed her confidence and a number of skills. The Chairman also commented about the friendships that had been formed with former Members and the benefits of learning to work in a team.

Youth Councillor Harris informed Ms Badlan that she had joined through her interest in politics and was keen to view first hand how local government worked.

Ms Badlan thanked Members for their comments and asked Members if their involvement with the Youth Council made politics seem more real? Youth Councillor Morgan replied that she had not thought of herself in a political role but part of an organisation who worked on behalf of the youth of the Town.

Ms Badlan thanked Youth Councillors for their comments and handed out her contact information.

It was

RESOLVED to note Ms Badlan's presentation with thanks.

74. **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

The Chairman informed Members that she had received positive feedback from everyone who had taken part. The performers had welcomed the platform to showcase their talent while providing an evening of entertainment for the youth of the town.

Youth Councillor Harrold handed Members a copy of a letter that had been published in the Hunts Post, written by Councillor Hyams, who had attended the event. In the letter, Councillor Hyams praised the Youth Council for organising the event and stated how well behaved the young people who attended the evening had been. It was

RESOLVED to thank Councillor Hyams for his comments.

Members noted that the quality of the PA system provided by Reed Events had been an improvement compared to the event in 2010.

Members were advised that the Perry Road Studios had offered a day at the recording studio as first prize for Battle of the Bands 2012. It was discussed if Battle of the Bands 2012 should be placed on the calendar and it was

RESOLVED to postpone the decision until the New Year.

75. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

Youth Councillors discussed the theme for the Christmas Stall and a timetable was finalised to man the stall throughout the day. It was

RESOLVED that the theme would be a 'Cake & Candy Stall where bags of sweets for 50p a bag would be sold, along with candy canes. There would also be a lollypop tombola and cakes baked by Youth Councillors. It was

RESOLVED to meet at the Town Hall at 10.00am to set up the stall.

76. **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Youth Councillor Walker informed Members that he and Youth Councillor Parkinson had attended the school assembly for year 8 & 9 to advertise the current vacancies on the Youth Council in a bid to increase membership.

Members discussed how Members needed to do more to raise the membership. It was

RESOLVED to write to Hinchingsbrooke and St Peter's Schools requesting permission to give a power point presentation on the Youth Council in assemblies.

The Chairman informed Members that she was unclear about the involvement of the Youth Town Council for the open air music festival that Councillor Mackender-Lawrence had spoken about at the last meeting and it was

RESOLVED to invite Councillor Mackender-Lawrence to present a detailed presentation at the next meeting

77. **DATE AND AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 7th December 2011, at the Commemoration Hall, Minerva Room, Huntingdon at 4.30pm.

CHAIRMAN