

**HUNTINGDON YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Youth Town Council was held at the **Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 4.30pm.**

Present: Youth Councillors J Chapell; R Harrold; Josh Marshall; Josh Munn; & C Richardson (Chairman).

Absent: Youth Councillors H Buttriss; M Hudson; A Moreton; C Parkinson; and E Walker.

In attendance: Councillor K Sumner & Karen Cameron, Town Clerk.

16. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Katrina Gillman and Cayleigh Morgan.

17. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Huntingdon Youth Town Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (M2) 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.

18. **FINANCE**

There was no report before Members. The Treasurer advised that since a cheque in the amount of £15 had been approved for payment since the last available balance was reported, the current available balance was therefore £4409.93.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to note the report with thanks.

*Clerk's Note: Following the meeting, the Chairman approved payment to Huntingdon Town Council in the amount of £90 in respect of purchase of the Youth Town Council banner.*

19. **BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed Phil and Miriam from the British Youth Council (BYC) and invited them to address the meeting.

The BYC representatives gave a background on the membership, objectives, campaigns, training & volunteering opportunities and International activity undertaken by the BYC as an organisation. The main objective of BYC, Youth Councillors heard, was to empower young people. Members learned that their Regional Advisor was Aisha Bi and that teambuilding activities involving the Regional and London representatives took place regularly.

Youth Councillors were asked what the Huntingdon Youth Town Council's (HYTC) campaigns were and the Chairman responded that HYTC was not political, but organised events locally for young people who might otherwise have nothing to do and provided funds to young people locally to allow them to undertake initiatives they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Members heard about the different phases of a Campaign Cycle, the end effect of which was resulting change. There was discussion about the adverse impact on young people nationally owing to expenditure cuts for Youth Services and how Youth Council's might address this. The BYC representatives encouraged Members to submit stories about their successes in order to support their ongoing campaign for continued funding for Youth Services.

Asked what they enjoyed about being part of the Youth Council, Youth Councillor Harrold spoke about the satisfaction derived from trying to provide something for young people locally. The Chairman spoke about a realised benefit from teamworking and ability to draw on youth council experiences in other situations. Youth Council membership was something positive to look back on and a legacy for the town of Huntingdon.

Cllr Sumner praised the Battle of the Bands Event as having been phenomenally well organised. Youth Councillors had demonstrated real focus & skill in delivering this successful event.

BYC representatives encouraged Youth Councillors to visit their website, to find out what resources were at their disposal and to read the "blog". Information about the BYC and the Regional Representative was circulated at the meeting and copies were passed to the Clerk. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to thank the representatives for their presentation and to give some thought to supporting the campaign for Youth Services funding by submitting an item about the Youth Council's successes.

## 20. **HUNTINGDON HAS TALENT**

Youth Councillors considered that since the date of this event was May 26<sup>th</sup>, planning should begin in earnest. The Commemoration Hall had been for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Two Acts had registered an entry to date and Youth Councillors were asked to consider how more entrants could be encouraged. Members considered opening up the entry to older people, to increase participation, but decided to keep the age for entry to 11-21 years. The use of Facebook was discussed as an opportunity for promotion, though there was some question about the administration of the page, which Youth Councillor Marshall was looking to resolve. Youth Councillor Richardson mentioned that she would be promoting the event at the same time as sending out an appeal for new Members. It was considered that arrangements on the night would be easy to organise, but without acts, there would be no event.

Cllr Sumner offered to contact the Hunts Post and ask them to promote the event. Promotion in About Town was acknowledged and Members were reminded that Huntingdon Community Radio would be on air very soon. Youth Councillors Harrold & Morgan had distributed posters and requests for donations for prizes to all the town centre shops.

Peter Bootley, of Scenique had confirmed that he would be a judge on the night, but Dame Evelyn Glennie and Luke Folwell had not been able to accept an invitation, owing to other engagements. Louis Smith and Daniel Keatings had still to respond.

On the subject of sound at the event, Members were keen that equipment used at the previous event should be improved upon. Youth Councillors Marshall & Richardson told members that they had contacts and it was therefore

**RESOLVED** to note arrangements to date and to look forward to receiving further details for consideration as these became available.

21. **RIVERSIDE GALA**

Youth Councillors discussed participation and the Chairman suggested that the British Youth Council's Regional representative, Aisha Bi, might be invited to take part.

There was some discussion about whether or not the Huntingdon Youth Town Council was a paid up member of the British Youth Council. Councillor Sumner suggested that the stand at the Riverside Gala might be used to alert young people to the expenditure cuts for Youth Services and the resulting pressure on local councils.

The Chairman suggested that details about the "Hinchingsbrooke Fund" could be included in promotional leaflet to be published by the Huntingdon Youth Town Council, stating what the key aims of the organisation were. Some consideration was given to the format of this and it was agreed that it provided an opportunity to show the Youth Town Council as exciting and fun. Support was given to a suggestion to invite other youth organisations to include information about themselves in the leaflet.

Display Boards at the Riverside Gala Stall could be used to give details about campaigns and about how to join the Youth Town Council and this suggestion demanded a rethink about promotion of the Youth Council and its "manifesto". It was suggested that fixings would be required for the new banner.

Finally Youth Councillors Richardson & Morgan were confirmed as attending and Youth Councillor Chapell gave apologies. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to note arrangements to date and to consider these further at the next meeting.

22. **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Councillor Sumner told the meeting that local MP, J Djanogly, was coming to Hunts Regional College on Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>, together with the youngest Councillor from St Ives, to talk to students, as part of an initiative by the College to try to get more young people more involved in decision making.

Cllr Sumner had been asked to say a few words about being a Town Councillor and he invited a representative of the Youth Town Council to give a ten minute presentation. Youth Councillor Richardson agreed to attend and was encouraged to talk about the Youth Council and to promote Huntingdon Has Talent. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to note this with thanks and to look forward to feedback from the event at the next meeting.

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

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011, at the Town Hall, Huntingdon at 4.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**