

**HUNTINGDON YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Youth Town Council was held at the **Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon** on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 4.30pm.**

Present: Youth Councillors M Hudson (Chairman); C Richardson; A Brennan; K Gillman; R Harrold; A John; Jake John; J Marshall; C Morgan; C Parkinson; J Munn; M Hyde; E Walker; S Morkel and K Pulford.

In attendance: Claire Kane, Deputy Town Clerk; Full time Campaign Volunteers for the British Youth Council Kirby Stebbing; Sophie Charles; Emmanuel Adanlawo and Hannah from St Peters School.

62. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Youth Councillors J Watkin-Tavener and J Chappell.

63. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Huntingdon Youth Town Council meeting held on 27th January 2010 (M6) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman, it was therefore

**RESOLVED** that the minutes (M6) were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

64. **BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL**

Youth Councillors welcomed Kirby Stebbing, Sophie Charles and Emmanuel Adanlawo of the British Youth Council (BYC), who gave a presentation on the work of the BYC, what Youth Councillors can do for BYC and the BYC General Election Manifesto.

Members were informed of the BYC mission statement and how BYC is led by young people, for young people aged 25 and under across the UK, empowering young people to have a say and be heard.

Youth Councillors were advised of volunteering opportunities that were on offer, ranging from The Young UK Ambassadors, which is an opportunity to represent young people at high profile international meetings, or V Talent, whose aim is to give 2,000 volunteers aged 16-25 an opportunity to directly influence and enhance public sector services and gain skills to improve their employability.

Youth Councillors heard that in the summer of 2009, 600 young people responded to a BYC questionnaire, sharing their views on what issues they thought Parliament could change for people under the age of 18 years.

Then at the BYC Annual Council Meeting, the top five issues voted for were:

- Lower the voting age to 16 years old.
- Support a national youth transport card that offers young people a third off public transport fares
- Create an equal national minimum wage for everyone over 16
- End child poverty in the UK by 2020
- Invest in comprehensive mental health services for young people.

Youth Councillors were told that in the run up to the general election and as part of the drive for support for the BYC election manifesto, the BYC is focusing on organising Youth Panel debates, which will be used as a platform to highlight youth issues in the local area. The panel would be organised with the support of a BYC regional organiser (Kirby Stebbing) who would aim to arrange a panel of MP's, prospective parliamentary candidates, experts and young people to debate an issue or question with an audience present.

A question and answer session was then held, where a variety of topics were discussed. Youth Councillor M Hudson thanked Kirby Stebbing, Sophie Charles and Emmanuel Adanlawo for their presentation.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5.20pm approx while pictures were taken of Youth Councillors holding placards highlighting the manifesto issues outside on the market square. The meeting then reconvened at 5.35 approx after the volunteers from the BYC had left.*

65. **SURVEY**

Youth Councillors M Hudson and R Harrold advised Members that a synopsis of the survey could not be completed, as they did not have access to the original data which was still with former Youth Councillor Jonty Bell. It was

**RESOLVED** to retain the survey off the agenda until the original data had been obtained.

66. **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

Youth Councillors discussed a suggested date of July 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the Commemoration Hall. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 was suitable and the Commemoration Hall should be booked from 12.00pm to 12.00am.

Youth Councillor M Hudson informed the group he had been given the telephone number of a sound engineer and would contact him to check availability and if there would be a charge.

Members discussed a poster and flyer campaign which would highlight the bands taking part and it was

**RESOLVED** to place an application form on the Town Council website, and the school's intranet with details in the local press asking for bands to register their interest.

It was

**RESOLVED** that the poster/flyer campaign would not start until June 2010 when Youth Councillors would hand out flyers advertising the event at the Riverside Gala.

Members agreed to the following prizes

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - £200.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £100.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50.00

Youth Councillors enquired what the maximum number of people allowed in the Commemoration Hall was and how many adult stewards were legally needed for the event. It was

**RESOLVED** Youth Councillor M Hudson would obtain the information and report to Members at the next meeting.

67. **PICNIC DAY**

No update was received as the Picnic Day Working Party had been unable to meet. It was

**RESOLVED** to meet before the next Youth Council meeting.

68. **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Youth Councillor R Harrold told Members that Huntingdon had achieved status as a Fairtrade Town resulting from the hard work of everyone involved.

Youth Councillors were informed that Ms Dixon from St Peters School had written to the Youth Council appealing for funding towards the School's Fairtrade dinner during the Fairtrade fortnight. The money would be used to purchase Fairtrade products. It was

**RESOLVED** to give a £50.00 donation.

Members were advised that former Youth Councillor Lawrence Kennedy would be requesting funding for his charity climb up Mount Kilimanjaro. It was

**RESOLVED** to wait until Mr Kennedy had approached the Youth Council in writing before considering the request.

Youth Councillor C Richardson reported that feedback from the pupils at Hinchingsbrooke School had been positive when discussing joining the Huntingdon Youth Council. It was

**RESLOVED** that a total of four pupils should be accepted and that applications would be discussed at the next meeting.

Youth Councillors were made aware of Councillor Helen Mallett's resignation from the Town Council.

69. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Town Hall, Huntingdon at 4.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**