

HUNTINGDON YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Youth Town Council was held at the **Commemoration Hall, High Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday 7th September 2011 at 4.30pm.**

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

Absent: Youth Councillors J Chapell and J Munn.

In attendance: Michael Hudson; Sophie Harris; and Karen Cameron, Town Clerk

54. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman asked for nominations for a new Chairman to the Youth Town Council for the ensuing year. Youth Councillors Harrold and Morgan were both proposed and seconded, whereupon they each gave a brief presentation on their suitability for the post. The Chairman asked for a vote and it was

RESOLVED to elect Youth Councillor Morgan as Chairman.

55. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The newly elected Chairman welcomed visiting former Member, Michael Hudson and new Youth Town Councillor, Sophie Harris to her first meeting. Apologies were received from Youth Councillors A Moreton and E Walker.

56. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to appoint Youth Councillor Harrold as Vice Chairman to the Youth Town Council.

Youth Councillors considered the appointment of a Press Officer, this role being currently undertaken by Youth Councillor Morgan and it was

RESOLVED to consider the appointment of a new Press Officer at a future meeting.

57. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Huntingdon Youth Town Council meeting held on 13th July 2011 (M7/11) 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.

58. **FINANCE**

Youth Councillor Marshall, as Treasurer, referred to a report before Youth Councillors showing total income and expenditure to date and a balance available totalling £3,001.16.

A Member pointed out that income recorded as received in respect of "Battle of the Bands" was attributable to "Huntingdon's Got Talent" and that expenditure relating to the purchase of badges and tee-shirts was recorded against "Events" in error. Subject to amendment of these details, it was

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks.

A cheque in payment for two new badges in the amount of £23.34 was presented and it was

RESOLVED to approve the payment and the cheque was signed by Youth Councillor Richardson and the Town Clerk.

Youth Councillors were asked to appoint new signatories for the Youth Town Council's banking affairs and it was

RESOLVED to appoint Youth Councillors Marshall and Morgan.

Finally, Youth Councillors

RESOLVED to invite a representative from Help for Heroes to a future meeting to receive a donation.

59. **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

Youth Town Councillors discussed arrangements to date in detail and **RESOLVED** as follows:

That a second guest band was required to perform on the night and the Chairman would continue to make enquiries; and

That solo entries would be permitted in the competition this year, limited to one entry per person; and

That Bill Hensley, of Huntingdon Community Radio; Karen Cameron, Town Clerk at Huntingdon Town Council; and a member of the band, Lost, would be approached by the Chairman and invited to judge the competition; and

That an order for professional support with sound for the evening should be placed with Reed Events; and

That a drum kit was to be borrowed from the Huntingdon Youth Theatre, who should be advised of recent change to the event date and to whom a donation of £100 should be paid in respect of the equipment loan; and

That posters should be displayed by Youth Town Councillors in schools and at the Regional College and the Chairman would check with Huntingdon Town Council about the availability of the Castle Hills gate for a banner display; and

That tickets for admission should be priced at £2 again this year; and

That the Chairman should make arrangements with Huntingdon Community Radio for promotion of the event, particularly to encourage more entries for

the competition, to include a live broadcast by Youth Councillor Richardson; and

That Youth Councillors should be prepared to attend one or two working party meetings in advance of the event, since there would only be one more Youth Council meeting shortly in advance of its date, ie 18th October.

60. **ALCONBURY AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman welcomed Rebecca Burton, of Urban and Civic, owners and developers of the former airfield at Alconbury.

Youth Councillors heard about plans for development of the site, which was described as 1400 Acres in area, or the size of 1000 football pitches. Using drawings & maps to illustrate the location and size of the area in relation to Huntingdon, Rebecca highlighted the convenience of rail, road and footpath links to the site. A new railway station was a likelihood, as was an extension of the Guided Bus Service. Footpaths closed off by Ministry of Defence Orders in the 1930's were to be re-opened and new cycleways would be developed. There was an emphasis sustainability at the site, where green energy technology would be applied as much as possible; water would be re-used; and materials on site would be re-used as much as possible, reducing any landfill burden. Local students of these technologies were being encouraged to become involved in the site's development.

Youth Councillors heard about plans for woodland creation; for a community farm and orchards between the existing and new settlement; and the desire of the developers to consult with local people to find out what other facilities would be required to serve the development. Urban and Civic were keen to develop a sense of place at Alconbury, remaining true to its heritage, ensuring it was right for the area around it and connected to, not isolated from Huntingdon.

Ms Burton emphasised a desire on the part of Urban and Civic to provide employment opportunities for skilled people and to support growing businesses to remain in the area. Provision of efficient Broadband capacity was an early aim.

Youth Councillors heard about plans for a consultation event on 24th September, when Urban & Civic planned to share some of their ideas and watched a short film which gave a flavour of these.

Josh Marshall left the meeting at 5.30pm.

Ms Burton then answered a number of questions, which included the following:

- Which other youth groups were Urban & Civic consulting with?

Youth Councillors heard that local schools had been contacted and that the County Council were in discussion with Urban & Civic about education requirements. FUSION and Alconbury Youth Group were also being consulted.

- Would lessons learned at new developments such as Cambourne & the Hamptons be applied to Alconbury.

Ms Burton said that development was to be phased at Alconbury, to allow facilities to be provided as the community grew and avoid delays in provision, which had been the Cambourne experience.

- How many houses would be built there?

Youth Councillors heard there would be a maximum of 5,000 houses.

- How would local secondary schools cope with increased pupil numbers?

Rebecca told Youth Town Councillors that Child Yield Prediction statistics were being collated and discussion was taking place with District and County Councils to ensure secondary school provision kept pace with local need.

- How long would the development take to complete?

The answer to this was about 20 years.

- How would Urban and Civic ensure that the character and quality of the development remained consistent? In Huntingdon, conflicts in the character of Stukeley Meadows and newer developments at the former Bus Depot on Stukeley Road and at Views Common were given as examples to be avoided.

Rebecca emphasised Urban and Civic's desire to maintain consistency, both in character & quality of housing across the value range and over the course of the site's development. She added that some designs would be presented during the consultation period to get a reflection of what people found attractive in the design code.

- How would dating be prevented over twenty years of development. Would the design be timeless?

Rebecca responded by saying that there was a view that good architecture didn't date. Through quality in construction, dating would be avoided. Designs might be different, but they would be complimentary. Youth Councillors heard that local students of construction and design at college in Cambridge, Huntingdon & Peterborough would be encouraged to become involved to develop the site.

- Would it be called "Alconbury Airfield" always? Would it be a part of Huntingdon eventually?

Urban and Civic were leaving a naming of the settlement to develop organically, Youth Councillors were told. It was envisaged that although links would be developed with all the surrounding settlements, the independence of the site as a place would be maintained.

- What retail provision was planned?

Urban and Civic did not envisage retail development on any scale larger than for local convenience. Full retail regeneration and development in Huntingdon was necessary for the Alconbury development to work.

- Would the provision of an additional railway station be economically viable, when small stations locally were being closed.

Youth Councillors heard that a terminus at Alconbury was an attractive prospect for Network Rail, as a turnaround point for stock that currently had to travel to Peterborough before turning round.

- Would there be primary school provision?

Urban & Civic had allocated space for “lifelong education” at the site, Youth Councillors heard.

- What opportunities for “starter jobs” would there be for young people?

Rebecca said she was working closely with JobCentre Plus locally to ensure that the employment opportunities created were right for the area.

Youth Councillors Gillman & Buttriss left at 6.00pm.

Suggestions put by Youth Councillors were as follows:

- Provision of a higher education establishment would benefit local young people at a time when the cost of education was rising and therefore more students would be inclined to live at home during the course of their study.
- Young people were more likely to use the recreational space between Huntingdon and Alconbury if it were equipped with attractions of some kind, such as trails & activities.
- The Hangar as a large performance venue would meet a need as yet unfilled locally, with larger venues currently only in London or Cambridge.
- Any existing listed buildings developed as Museums at the site should be museums of “experience”.

Youth Councillors expressed an interest in future involvement with the development plans and were advised that they would be provided with details of a consultation link, allowing them to express views on the development plans whenever and wherever they were located. It was therefore

RESOLVED to thank Rebecca Burton for her presentation.

61. **30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING WITH WERTHEIM**

A report of the Deputy Town Clerk before Members gave details of plans for celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of Huntingdon & Godmanchester’s Twinning Agreement with Wertheim am Main. It was suggested that the Youth Town Council might provide an information stand at the Commemoration Hall on the evening of Friday 23rd September, to provide guests from all the Twinned Towns with information about the Huntingdon Youth Town Council. It was therefore

RESOLVED to support this initiative, Youth Councillors to confirm to the Deputy Town Clerk their availability to attend on 23rd September.

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

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 5th October 2011, at the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon at 4.30pm.

CHAIRMAN