

Joint Parishes Youth Committee

Meeting

Monday, 17th July 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Steyning Centre

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Alistair Russell (APC) Chair, Roger Potter (BPC), Alan Chilver (UPC) and Michelle Syred (SPC).

In Attendance: Emma Edwards and Liz Burt (Horsham Matters) and 1 member of the public.

Clerk: Paddy Robson

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Sarah Green (BPC).

2. Election of Chairman

Councillor Potter proposed Councillor Russell as Chairman and this was seconded by Councillor Syred and agreed. Councillor Russell agreed to take on the role for one year and suggested then that it should be on a rolling programme of the four parishes. This was unanimously agreed.

3. Minutes of last Meeting

3.1 The committee first read the minutes for the 13th March which were unable to be approved at the last meeting due to lack of a quorum. These were proposed for adoption by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Chilver and agreed.

3.2 The minutes of the last meeting held on 10th April were read. Councillor Russell requested that Councillor Bowell's name be removed from the list of attendees as he was absent at that meeting. Several other amendments had been made by Horsham Matters and had been forwarded to the committee. The amended minutes were then proposed for adoption by Councillor Chilver and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 .There was unanimous agreement that this committee would be run under the Standing orders of Steyning PC.

4.2 Liz Burt from Horsham Matters confirmed that signed contracts had been received from all four parishes.

5. Questions from the Public

The member of the public said that he was pleased that the Youth Committee meetings were now open to the public but said that he would like them to be better publicised.

He suggested that in addition to publishing agendas on websites and noticeboards in the parishes, e-mails could be sent to all relevant organisations in the area e.g scouts, sports groups etc.

This was welcomed by the committee and Councillor Syred said that she would take it to the Steyning PC meeting and Councillor Chilver will speak to the Upper Beeding clerk.

Action: M.S. and A.C.

6. Horsham Matters Report

In response to a question from Councillor Potter Liz Burt said that the increase in operational costs is the result of more activities taking place but that this also provides more profit from the sale of tuck etc. Councillor Syred asked what happened if young people are not able to fund the charges. Liz Burt said that costs were never a barrier and there were subsidies available up to a full grant if deemed necessary. She said that the youth worker team were able to find out in a subtle manner when this is necessary and also that the new I.T. system would provide better links with parents.

7. Youth Worker's Report

Emma had presented a very thorough report outlining all areas of the work.

7.1 Numbers in groups have been strong and the service has benefitted from good volunteers. However, some of these will not be returning in September and there is an urgent need to recruit new people. Vacancies exist in The Hub in Upper Beeding on Mondays from 6.00-8.30 p.m. and for the Thursday group at Steyning from 6.30- 9.30 p.m. Parishes will be asked to display posters and publicise on websites.

7.2 The three existing groups have worked successfully with Hub Fun having numbers of 20+ consistently each week. The groups for the younger years are always better attended but the smaller older group are able to work more individually on preparing C.V.s etc when required.

7.3 A new group "Stand Together" has held 4 sessions this term at The Towers School to encourage emotional wellbeing. Between 18 and 22 students have attended each meeting and it is hoped this will continue in the Autumn Term. It is also hoped that it may be possible to start something similar at S.G.S. covering both physical and emotional wellbeing. Councillor Syred asked if it may also be possible to consider a group to cover exam stress for year 6 at the primary stage. HM said they would consider this and that it could possibly involve Ashurst as well as the larger villages.

7.4 Horsham Matters continues to network with a host of other agencies. As a result of working alongside Coastal West Sussex MIND a new Outreach Worker has been appointed to the area to cover the needs of 16-25 year olds.

7.5 Several trips have been arranged during the summer break. Future developments include an Anger Management course which can improve the anti-social behaviour of some young people and can also offer a course in Billingshurst for parents about understanding teenage behaviour. Horsham Matters new I.T. system provides a secure database which

enables the booking of trips, better links with parents and gives youth workers continuous information about the individual young person. Councillor Syred suggested that a link be provided from the youth website to school websites.

7.6 Emma will give a presentation to Steyning PC on 17th September and councillors from the other parishes will be invited.

Councillor Syred asked about skate ramp. Liz Burt confirmed that it still visits all areas but is difficult for staff to arrange. Councillors Syred and Russell both agreed to be contacted about driving the vehicle and helping with erecting the ramp. It is hoped to provide a session at both Steyning and Upper Beeding. Councillor Syred also asked about the Purple Bus. At the moment it is without a youth worker due to WSCC staffing decisions but HM remains happy to partner with them and is meeting HDC this week. Following a question from Councillor Potter Emma said 1:1 mentoring is used for young people with problems to aid links with other agencies. The Chairman and committee thanked Emma for her excellent work and closed the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

8. Dates of Next Meetings

The next meeting will take place on **Monday, 20th November at 6 p.m. in the Steyning Centre.**

A meeting will also be held on: **Monday, 19th March 2018**

