

**UTTLESFORD YOUTH COUNCIL held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2018 at 5.30 pm**

Present: Councillor M Wolter – Chair  
Councillors T Birkbeck, H Briffa, R Davey, E Reid, and I Whittle

Officers in attendance: B Ferguson (Democratic Services Officer) and J Starr (Community Officer - Drugs and Alcohol).

Also present: District Councillor P Fairhurst.

**YC13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Fairhurst, A Gerard and A McHugh.

**YC14 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

The Democratic Services Officer said a new meeting management system had recently been implemented at Uttlesford District Council and explained the means by which meeting documentation could be circulated and uploaded onto the Council's website. He said there was an opportunity for the Youth Council to have its agendas and minutes published on the website, but Members had to be aware that this would make such documents available in the public domain.

**YC15 CERTIFICATE - RECOGNITION OF PARTICIPATION**

The Community Officer presented a draft Certificate and sought Members views on wording and style. Members agreed that the certificate should only be awarded to Members who had attended six meetings and above, and would state what working groups the Member had been involved in, as well as noting any Chair or Vice-Chair positions held.

The Community Officer said he would produce a number of example Certificates and would present them at subsequent meetings so Members could decide.

**YC16 WORKING GROUPS**

Elections and Membership Working Group

Councillor Birkbeck said it was important to raise awareness regarding the Youth Council in Uttlesford as he wanted each election to be contested.

Councillor Fairhurst said he could arrange for an assembly to take place at the Newport Joyce Frankland Academy but would like two or three youth councillors to accompany him.

Councillor Briffa said it was frustrating that elections were being postponed at schools and it would be helpful if there were a definitive timeline.

The Community Officer said he recognised that holding elections was problematic and the constitution should be amended to allow Youth Councillors to stand for two years, instead of one, and that elections should be staggered to ensure there was a degree of continuation within the Council.

Councillor Briffa said he would join the Elections and Membership working group.

#### Communications Working Group

Councillor Whittle said the Communications working group had not met since the last meeting but she still wanted to contact the press to advertise the recently established Youth Council.

Councillor Reid said she would draft a press release before the next meeting and send it to the Community Officer who would circulate with Youth Councillors for approval.

YC17

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Fairhurst said the Youth Council should consider establishing a number of other working groups, focusing on issues such as Housing and Employment.

Councillor Birkbeck concurred and requested that the establishment of a Housing working group was put on the next meeting's agenda.

The Community Officer ran through a number of upcoming events relating to the Youth Council:

#### 21 March – Youth Work Celebration Evening

The Community Officer invited Councillors to the event celebrating youth work in the local area.

#### 22 and 29 August – Young People Event

The Community Officer said he would email proposals for an event to members of the Youth Council and asked them to provide feedback.

#### 14 April – Youth Council planning workshop and Youth Essex Assembly induction

Councillor Reid asked whether she could invite a representative from the 'Stop UDC' group, who were opposed to building the garden settlements as proposed in Uttlesford's Local Plan. She said this would give Youth Councillors a balanced

picture on local planning issues as the Development Manager at UDC would also be invited.

YC18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting had been previously agreed as 8 May 2018 at 5.30pm.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.