

**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING held at the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.30pm on 26 MARCH 2019**

Present: Councillor M Wolter (Chairperson)
Councillors H Ataparmakova, J Balchin, T Birkbeck, T Brown, J Cornwall-Jones, J Hackett, A Haus, O Perry, L Smith, W Widdock, and F Wolter.

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

YC25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Youth Councillors Reid and McHugh.

YC26 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 February were agreed as a true and correct record.

YC27 CO-OPTION

Four young people had come forward expressing interest in joining the Youth Council. Tommy Brown, of Forrest Hall, Stansted, would represent his school, and three other young people had put their names forward for co-option.

The Chairperson asked the three candidates to leave the room whilst members deliberated their co-option.

RESOLVED to co-opt Councillors Widdock, Perry, Cornwall-Jones and Brown as members of Uttlesford Youth Council.

YC28 CONSTITUTION

Councillor Ataparmakova updated the Youth Council on the proposed changes to the Constitution. She said the primary change related to the responsibilities and accountability of Youth Councillors. As an example, she said in the event that a councillor missed three meetings in a row, dismissal would now be considered by their peers at the next meeting. Other changes had also been proposed to elections, working groups, recognition of contribution, deputies, public speaking and term limits.

RESOLVED to approve the amendments proposed by the Constitution Working Group and submit the updated Constitution to the Assistant Director – Governance and Legal Services for review.

WORKING GROUPS

For the benefit of new members, the Chairperson explained the purpose of each Youth Council working group. Chairpersons of each working group were then invited to give an update on any activity since the last meeting. Councillor Birkbeck asked new members to approach him following the meeting if they were interested in joining any of the established groups.

Mental Health Working Group

Councillor F Wolter updated the Youth Council on the work of the Mental Health Working Group. She said the Group intended to use educational theatre to raise mental health awareness in primary schools and would be meeting a professional theatre group in the coming weeks, who they hoped could provide strategic advice on their approach.

Members discussed the issue of mental health and there was agreement that very little was done in primary schools to address the issue.

The Community Officer said he could arrange a meeting with the organiser of 'Crucial Crew' who put on workshops for local young people, as another potential avenue to promote the importance of mental health to young people in the district.

Environmental Working Group

Councillor Widdock said he was passionate about environmental issues and asked whether an Environmental Working Group could be established. He said he had a number of projects in mind that could be developed with the Youth Council.

Members discussed the idea and agreed that the environment warranted a dedicated working group. Councillors Brown, Perry, Widdock and the Chairperson joined the Group.

RESOLVED to establish an Environmental Working Group.

Housing Working Group

Councillor Birkbeck updated members on the progress of the Housing Work Group. He explained how local development was one of the most important subjects Uttlesford faced and it was essential that young people engaged with the issue. He said work continued on the Youth Council's digital and online presence, and there was potential to create an app that would canvass the opinion of young people across the district to gain insight into their priorities.

Councillor F Wolter said the working group had drafted a selection process for young people who were interested in sitting on the Garden Communities Development Boards. The primary criteria was to be living in the vicinity of a proposed Garden Community and to demonstrate commitment to an ongoing and serious project that would have a real impact on the development of these proposed garden communities.

Communications Working Group

Members discussed the work of the Communications Working Group. Councillor Ataparmakova said she would write an article to promote the work of the Youth Council, with the intention of having it printed in a local paper and Uttlesford Life magazine.

The Chairperson said it was important for the work and profile of the Youth Council to be promoted and encouraged members to write articles for local papers. She asked for any articles to be presented to Youth Council for approval, before having them published in the local press.

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.