

**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING held at the COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD  
SAFFRON WALDEN at 5.30pm on 4 JULY 2018**

Present: Councillor M Wolter  
Councillors T Birkbeck, R Davey and O Woor.

Officers in  
attendance: R Dobson (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), B  
Ferguson (Democratic Services Officer), F Gardiner (Communities  
Manager) and J Starr (Community Officer).

Also present: District Councillors P Fairhurst and B Light.

**YC25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors H Briffa, J Fairhurst, A McHugh, E  
Reid, J Reid and District Councillor Lemon.

The Democratic Services Officer said the Youth Council had not achieved  
quorum and therefore no resolutions could be passed at the meeting.

**YC26 MINUTES**

Members deferred approval of the minutes until the next quorate meeting.

**YC27 NATIONAL DEMOCRACY WEEK**

The Democratic and Electoral Manager explained the electoral registration  
process for potential electors aged sixteen or seventeen. Throughout the  
presentation she stressed the importance of registering to vote; if potential  
electors had not registered before an election, they would be unable to exercise  
their right to vote on polling day.

She said sixteen or seventeen year olds could register in a variety of ways but  
the most straightforward method was to register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-  
vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). She added that a National Insurance number would be required.

Members agreed in principle that it would be helpful if the Democratic and  
Electoral Services Manager visited schools to talk about the importance and  
practicalities of electoral registration.

The Community Officer said this could be progressed as a joint initiative between  
the Youth Council and Electoral Services, particularly if scheduled during the  
Youth Council's election period in September or October. He said it would be a  
good time to promote democracy in a general sense.

Councillor Birkbeck said young people were not interested in 'National Democracy Week' but they were interested in democracy. Schools were continuously informing pupils of the importance of democracy, but this was not enough to create sufficient enthusiasm or engagement with young people. He said holding a mock referendum on a relevant and pressing issue, such as abortion, would be a good way to generate youth engagement with democracy.

The Chairman said a Democracy working group would be established at the next quorate meeting to help take this issue forward.

## YC28 **YOUTH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

As the meeting was not quorate the Chairman deferred the decisions on changing the constitution and co-opting new members until the next meeting. She said the items would be on the next agenda.

Councillor Birkbeck asked for the amended constitution to be included with the minutes of this meeting (please see attached).

Members said they were happy to speak at Council and requested a Youth Council item on the next possible Full Council agenda.

## YC29 **PROPOSED PLANNING/HOUSING SEMINAR**

Members discussed the proposed planning/housing seminar. There was general agreement that young people were interested in the issues of planning and housing, and they should contribute to the Local Plan in Uttlesford.

The Community Officer said the seminar needed to be arranged before the Uttlesford Local Plan consultation period ended in September, to ensure young people in the District contributed towards their views to the consultation process.

Councillor Birkbeck said those invited to address the seminar should display a range of views on planning issues, including local groups and officers at the council, so the young people who attended were truly well informed.

Councillor Fairhurst said the Assistant Director – Planning should arrange a consultation with the Youth Council and requested officers to contact him.

The Community Officer said a realistic date for the seminar was likely to be in early September, but he would keep Members informed.

## YC30 **WORKING GROUPS**

Members discussed the following Working Groups

- **Plastics** – Councillor Birkbeck requested an item on the next agenda.

- **Elections -**

Councillor Birkbeck tabled a draft resolution, which included a motion to adopt proposed election guidelines in the constitution (resolution and guideline documents attached). As the meeting was not quorate, a binding resolution could not be made. Members discussed the prospect of holding a virtual meeting by using social media or voting buttons via email.

- **Communications** – The Chairman and Councillor Birkbeck had arranged to meet a journalist at the Saffron Walden Reporter to help raise the profile of the Youth Council and increase participation before the scheduled elections in September.

The Community Officer said the Youth Council now had a formal Council email address and he would circulate details following the meeting.

YC31

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)**

- 11<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm

The meeting ended at 7.00pm.