

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of Youth Council
Held at The Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury at
2:00pm on Thursday 11th July 2024

PRESENT

Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Andy Hall (Youth and Community Manager), Councillor E Addams, Finlay Cullen (Chairman), Aya Fawwaz (Vice Chairman), Jaira Jiju, Orla Kealy, Leo Bishop, Sophie Peake, Lloyd Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE

Sally Nicholson (Secretary), Anita Foster (Youth Worker).

01/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

Apologies were received from Councillors Bentick, Dartnall, Lemon, Moseley & Wilson.

02/24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was RESOLVED that Finlay Cullen was elected as Chairman.

03/24 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was RESOLVED that Aya Fawwax was elected as Vice Chairman.

04/24 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Deputy Town Clerk handed out the 'Which Council Do I Contact?' leaflet to give the youth members an understanding of responsibilities of each Council, advising that Shropshire Council were the Principal Authority.

Deputy Town Clerk went through the Terms of Reference for the committee which had been approved by Full Council in May 2024.

RESOLVED

That the Terms of Reference were noted by the Youth Council.

05/24 YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Youth and Community Manager read out his report.

The speed debating held on Thursday 16th May was successful with some excellent questions from the Youth members being put to the councillors. Clare Ashford from Radio Shropshire attended and recorded interviews with councillors and the young members which was then later broadcasted on Radio Shropshire.

On Wednesday 12th June Youth Council members joined other providers in the Square as part of Great Big Green Week and were on hand to explain what they were doing to tackle climate change.

On Friday 28th June Young Shrewsbury's "Youth Social" The Stay Safe Day was a great success with many young people attending.

06/24 TRANSPORT

- (i) Leo Bishop spoke about the issues regarding transport issues around Shrewsbury. Concerns raised were no direct bus service from one side of town to another; ticket costs; interactive system at some bus stops not in use; digital timetables; rural bus service scarce. The Deputy Town Clerk spoke about the Movement Strategy and advised that she would forward the concerns to them. The Youth and Community Manager spoke about the difficulties the bus company have with recruiting and retaining drivers resulting in not enough drivers to cover routes. He went on to say that he felt that bus travel should be free to under 18's. Sophie Peake agreed that this would be a good idea and would help with young people being able to get into town to socialise with friends. The Chairman advised that he attended a very good hustings at his school during the pre-election period and spoke with Mr Kawczynski about the transport issues and about youth. The Chairman requested that the new MP, Julia Buckley be invited a future Youth Council Meeting.
- (ii) There was discussion regarding the condition of the cycle routes around Shrewsbury. Councillor Addams commented that cycle routes were one of the concerns for the new MP for Shrewsbury, Julia Buckley.
- (iii) Leo Bishop spoke about concerns regarding safety issues on roads in particular overgrown hedges restricting views at junctions; overgrown trees/hedges over signage; overgrown hedges on cycle paths and footpaths result in cyclists and pedestrians having to walk on the road. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that these issues would come under Shropshire Council's remit and should be reported on 'Fix My Street'.

07/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk talked about the Climate Working Group and suggested that a representative from the Youth Council attend the Climate meetings.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk also talked about the ongoing Vision Exercise that the Town Council was carrying out in order to determine its future strategic plans .

- (iii) Leo asked about links on Shrewsbury Town Council Website and other social media platforms. The Chairman advised that Instagram was the better social media platform in getting information to the youngsters.
- (iv) It was agreed to invite Julia Buckley MP to a future Youth Council Meeting. Councillor Addams advised that she would contact the MP.
- (v) The Youth and Community Manager advised that he would circulate a list of relevant email addresses and mobile numbers.

08/24 FUTURE MEETING DATES/EVENTS

The date for the next meeting was proposed for 26th September, however following the meeting it has come to the Committee's attention that there is a Shropshire Council Full Council meeting on that date. Shrewsbury Town Council's Committee's Clerk will liaise with the Youth and Community Manager for a new convenient date.