

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of Youth Council Working Group
Held at Livesey House, Shrewsbury at
2:00pm on Monday 30th September 2024

PRESENT

Youth Council - Aya Fawwaz (Vice Chairman), Jaira Jiju, Orla Kealy, Leo Bishop, Sophie Peake, Lloyd Jones, Eleanor Brayne, Pia Bowen, Charlotte Pugh, Kate Evans, Ruby Evans, Jake Lewis, Freddy Anderson, Giovanna Marshall.

Town Councillors - Elisabeth Addams, Bernie Bentick, Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean & Rob Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk) Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Andy Hall (Youth and Community Manager), Sally Nicholson, (Mayor's Secretary & Committee Clerk) & Anita Foster (Youth Worker).

INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves.

09/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received from Finlay Cullen (Chairman) and Councillors Lemon & Moseley.

10/24 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The minutes of the Youth Council Working Group held on 11 July 2024 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Youth Council Working Group on 11 July 2024 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

11/24 MATTERS ARISING

- **Min 06/24 (i) – Transport Issues around Shrewsbury.** Freddie Anderson spoke about the issue of limited facilities for storing/locking bicycles at the Shrewsbury Colleges campuses and also about the issue surrounding bus fares for students suggesting that there should be free bus travel for all students regardless of age. Councillor Dartnall advised she was in talks with Shropshire Council regarding sustainable transport matters at London Road Campus and would make enquiries about cycle parking spaces at all three campuses.
- **Min 07/24 (iv) – Any Other Business – Inviting the MP for Shrewsbury to a Youth Council Working Group.** The Youth and Community Manager advised that he had spoken to Julia

Buckley MP recently about inviting her to attend a Youth Council Working Group. Julia would be delighted to attend a meeting and a date will be agreed in due course.

12/24 YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Youth and Community Manager read out his report.

Young Shrewsbury's Youth activities returned week commencing 2nd September 2024 after the summer holidays. All youth clubs at The Grange, Ditherington, Hive & Monkmoor football were back up and running as normal. The Youth and Community Manager was also delighted to report that the Lodge Youth Club in Monkmoor was now open every Thursday in the new SYA building with Junior and Senior Sessions. Councillor Bentick reported that the youth sessions had been very well received.

The Youth and Community Manager reported that he recently delivered RUN, HIDE, TELL training to youth staff and showed some posters. The training included specialised videos and lesson plans and would enable staff to educate young people on how to keep safe in an emergency. Councillor Bentick asked if he could receive copies of the posters to place in the Meole Matters Community Magazine. The Youth and Community Manager advised that he would get some posters to Councillor Bentick as soon as possible. Freddie Anderson asked what the RUN, HIDE, TELL initiative was all about. The Youth and Community Manager advised that due to recent incidents, the initiative was about remaining vigilant and making people aware of how to protect themselves if the need arose. He went on to say that there were some good links available for teachers, students and Youth Clubs to deliver sessions on the initiative. The Town Clerk advised that she would be happy to facilitate some Action Counters Terrorism training for the Youth Council at Livesey House. The Vice Chair thanked the Town Clerk and confirmed that the training would be very welcome. The Youth and Community Manager confirmed that he would make arrangements for this to take place.

The Youth and Community Manager reported that Young Shrewsbury Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) had held sessions at the Grange Youth Centre throughout the Summer months which included trips to both the Exotic Zoo and Hollywood Bowl. He went on to advise that there was currently uncertainty regarding future HAF funding from Central Government for 2025 and that he was waiting for guidance from Shropshire Council.

The Youth and Community Manager reported that the delivery of the Alternative Curriculum (AC) would continue this term and had received verbal confirmation with all attendees from Shrewsbury Academy.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report of the Youth & Community Manager be noted;**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk be asked to undertake Action Counters Terrorism Training with the Youth Council**

13/24 VISIONING EXERCISE FEEDBACK

The Deputy Town Clerk explained the Town Council's visioning exercise and briefly went through a presentation detailing the kind of priorities the Town Council had developed and the actions to support those priorities. The Vice Chair asked how the Council informed the public about the exercise. The Deputy Town Clerk advised there had been an on-line questionnaire available for members of the public to complete and in person sessions took place at Livesey House. Unfortunately, the in- person sessions were poorly attended. Freddie Anderson asked how many people took part to which the Deputy Town Clerk advised 502 responses were received.

Councillor Bentick asked if schools were contacted directly about the Visioning Exercise to which Deputy Town Clerk advised they hadn't. The Youth and Community Manager advised that the questionnaire had been sent to the Youth Council.

There was discussion regarding Neurodiversity within the Action Plan - understanding what Neurodiversity was; how to make Shrewsbury Neurodiversity friendly. Suggestions were to prepare a questionnaire for parents, schools and local businesses detailing what can be offered and ask what were the concerns.

The Town Clerk also suggested that the Youth Council think about putting a presentation together themselves to include objectives and priorities and what actions they would take on board and then present it at a future council meeting. Vice Chairman thought that this was a good idea.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The report of the Deputy Town Clerk be noted;**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk arrange a Visioning Session with the Youth Town Council**

14/24 YOUTH STRATEGY

The Youth and Community Manager presented a report on the Town Council's plan to develop a Youth Strategy. This would include its purpose; its strategic aims; provision for Young Shrewsbury; Education/Alternative Curriculum and the Youth Council. It was important that a local Strategy for Shrewsbury should fit well with a County Strategy which was also being developed.

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that the Youth Strategy should be sent out to members asking for feedback before the next meeting. It should then be approved by the Youth Council before being forwarded on to Full Council for formal adoption.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Youth & Community Manager's Report be noted;**
- (ii) That the draft Youth Strategy be circulated to the Youth Council for comment .**

15/24 REPRESENTATION ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND NATURE RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on previous discussions on Climate Change by the Youth Council and suggested that the Youth Council might wish to nominate representatives to sit on the Town Council's Climate Emergency & Nature Recovery Strategy. All thought this was an excellent idea.

RESOLVED

That Jake Lewis, Orla Kealy, Eleanor Brayne and Jaira Jiju represent the Youth Council on the Climate Emergency and Nature Recovery Committee.

16/24 OTHER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk gave an update on other Town Council committees reporting that every quarter she gives an update at the Full Council meeting and would be happy to include anything from the Youth Council. Going forward she would also ensure there is a report to the Youth Council on Town Council activity.

17/24 YOUTH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

How best to send documents to members of the Youth Council was discussed. The Youth and Community Manager reported that email correspondence was getting better, but some emails were still being missed, advising that better communication with the Youth Council was required. Councillor Wilson stated that all schools use TEAMS/Sharepoint and suggested that this avenue may be the most convenient. Jake Lewis suggested that as well as schools, parents should also be contacted and kept informed of meetings. The Youth and Community Manager reported that there can sometimes be problems with emails to schools especially when there are changes to teachers, so agreed that emailing parents would be a good idea.

RESOLVED:

That Youth Council members investigate using TEAMS as the main platform for correspondence.

18/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Councillor Bentick asked what the young people wanted to achieve from the Youth Council and asked if there were any schools not represented. The Youth and Community Manager reported that all schools were represented.
- (ii) Councillor Wilson spoke about the Shrewsbury Moves document and that comments were from older people with nothing from the under 18's suggesting that the Youth Council have a briefing on Shrewsbury Moves.
- (iii) Leo Bishop asked if it would be possible for the Chair and Vice Chair could be part of the Full Council. The Town Clerk advised that it was not possible for Youth Council Members to take part and vote in Full Council meetings but she was happy to speak

to the Mayor about what arrangements could be made for Youth Council members to feel more involved. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Full Council is broadcast live via TEAMS should any one wish to listen in. The meeting was also advised that questions can be submitted to the Council from anybody up until 4pm on the day of the meeting. Councillor Bentick asked if the Youth Council could be included on the distribution for the Full Council Meeting. The Town Clerk agreed to this request.

- (iv) Sophie Peake asked about Youth Council representatives on other committees. The Town Clerk advised arrangements could be made if there was anything important that the Youth Council wished to raise but advised that the Youth Council representatives would have no voting rights.
- (v) The Youth and Community Manager advised that going forward 'Any Other Business' would not be an Agenda item. Any items to be considered at the next meeting should be submitted as an Agenda.

19/24 FUTURE MEETING DATES/EVENTS

The date for the next meeting was proposed for 28th November 2024 at 2pm, taking place at the Grange Youth Centre.