

Minutes of the Gedling Youth Council Meeting held on:

Monday 18th September 2023

5.30 - 7.30pm in the Chappell Room, Civic Centre

1. Welcome, refreshments, apologies received

Apologies received: Aimee Kimpton, Fatimah Malik, Caitlin OConnor and Leyla Abass.

In Attendance: Freddie Vokes, Stella Clarke, Cllr Fox, Cllr Barnes, Jane Ansell, Amy Beckworth, Sim Duhra (GBC Climate Change Officer and Guest speaker)

2. Nomination of temporary Chair recruitment and Inauguration of incoming Youth Council 2024 – 2026

Fatimah Malik had submitted her interest in this role. It was unanimously **AGREED** that Fatimah be appointed temporary chair, to hold that office until the MYP Elections in 2024.

3. Minutes of last meeting, actions arising

Members noted that the meeting scheduled for 24th July had been cancelled, with all agenda items being deferred to this meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th April were accepted as a true record.

4. Group chat discussions: subjects members want to raise

- Members discussed the setting up of a dedicated Gedling Youth Council Webpage.
- It was also suggested that we look at relocating meetings to the Council Chamber in the future.
- Freddie gave feedback on his address, meet and greet with Redhill and Christ The King schools on 15th September. He advised that it was a positive event, and that it would be helpful to have more information on the work of the Youth Council available at future Democracy Day Events.

Jane reported that on **point 1**. The Communities Team has just established a page for the Seniors Council, with a Youth Council page being the next task. This would be available by the end of the year, subject to capacity.

Jane reported that on **point 2**. The Council Chamber had been used in the past, however was not always conducive to focus group work and group brainstorming exercises, also no access to refreshments.

Meeting rooms are scheduled by Democratic Services at the outset of each financial year and are currently booked into in the Chappell Room until April 2024.

With the Youth Council currently depleted and in its final months, Jane proposed deferring this idea to a future meeting for a wider discussion.

Jane acknowledged **point 3.** and reported that the Youth Council Terms of Reference A5 Leaflet will be updated for the 2024/2027 Youth Council term of office, will include a link to the new webpage and copies will be made available for future engagement opportunities.

5. Recruitment and inauguration of incoming Youth Council 2024 – 2026

Jane confirmed that the formal Youth Council recruitment commences with an email out to all schools and the Youth Service in late November 2023, and closes 31st March 2024.

Additionally, an article will appear in the Winter contacts magazine promoting the benefits of joining the Youth Council.

Membership was promoted at the Democracy Day event led by Democratic Services on 15th September, and a number of young people from Redhill and Christ The King Schools registered their interest in joining.

ACTION: Jane and Amy will follow up those registrations, provide parental permission forms and where emails are held add to the Youth Council email distribution.

6. Guest Speaker Sim Duhra, GBC Climate Change Officer: Gedling Borough Council's Journey to Net Zero – Video, Q and A.

Sim shared a short film outlining the environmental challenges and behaviour changes needed to get to Net Zero, and members discussed what can be done to influence that process. Sim and Members considered the Environmental Sustainability Mission Statement and actions listed in the Young Peoples Consultation 2020/21 response Action Plan (**Appendix 1 pages 3 and 4**) and suggested the following additional actions:

Sim Duhra to deliver School Assembly presentations and/or PHSE sessions at Redhill and Carlton Academies. (Schools that have 6th Forms).

- That the Environmental Sustainability section of the Consultation Response Action Plan to be updated to include progress that the Council has achieved in the journey to Net Zero to date.
- Update to include the Council's recent APSE Award Win for it's collaborative work on Environmental Sustainability.
- The Green Rewards Scheme, shared by Sim at the meeting, to be widely promoted by the Council and at Council Events
- Young People to put up 'Green Reward' scheme posters in study areas at their schools and FE Colleges, Youth Clubs.

7. Guest Speaker Expressions of Interest (if received)

None received – AGREED that Sim Duhra be invited back to address the Incoming Gedling Youth Council next year.

8. Gedling Young People's Consultation Action Plan (App.1), proposals for future meeting themes and guest speakers:

Members proposed that Inspector Mark Stanley and Niki Pekal, GBC **Community Safety Officer** be invited to the next meeting to discuss Young People's Safety.

ACTION: Jane to send invitations to Inspector Stanley and Niki Pekal.

Members noted completed and remaining meeting themes and guest speakers as listed below:

Completed:

- **Communications** – GBC Comms Team Lead Rob McCleary
- **Social Mobility (link to Employability, Entrepreneurship Equality and diversity in Consultation Action Plan)** - Lance Juby, Head of Service, Communities and Leisure – **Action arising:** nominate YC representative onto Gedling Social Mobility Commission)
- **Environmental Sustainability** - Sim Duhra, GBC Climate Change Office

Pending:

- **20th November: Young People's Safety** – Mark Stanley, Gedling Policing Team Lead, Niki Pekal, GBC Community Safety Officer, Environment

Remaining:

- **Activities for Young People** – NCC Youth Service Sean Ryan - Gedling Team Lead / Pom Bhogal. Group Manager
- **Equality and Diversity** – Cllrs Fox and Barnes (feedback and discussion, Arnold Summer Fair Sat 24th June, Strategic Equalities Group priorities)
- **'You Said, We Did' Presentation to Council** and invitation to attend Gedling Corporate Management Team meeting (CMT) meeting – Feb 2024?
- **Review of Youth Mayor role**

ACTION: On the Youth Mayor role item, it was AGREED that Youth Mayor feedback and updates be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

9. Member of Youth Parliament / Countywide Youth Parliament Updates, YC Awayday feedback – Amy Beckworth

Amy Beckworth reported on a Countywide online debate taking place with Public Health on Weds 20th September at 6.00pm.

Amy also reported a social event taking place with members of Countywide Youth Forums/Councils, which she would circulate.

ACTION: Amy will circulate a link to the Public Health debate and details of the Countywide social event.

9. Any Other Business

Freddie raised concerns about young people's safety when crossing roads on the A60 near Burton Joyce. Buses had been diverted and people were struggling to cross safely.

ACTION: Jane to refer the matter to NCC Highways Team / Via East Midlands.

Future meeting dates:

All 5.30 – 7.30pm in the Chappell Room, 1st floor, unless otherwise stated on the agenda:

2023

20th November

2024

19th February

22nd April (Inaugural meeting of incoming Youth Council 2024 – 2026)