

SWAFFHAM YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Swaffham Youth Council meeting of the 1st December 2008 at the Town Hall, Swaffham.

In attendance: Emily Wright - Chairman
Mário Goncalves - Vice Chairman

Lewis Hanrahan, Amy Head, Sophie Willis, Sasha, Morgan Creed.

Deputy Town Clerk: Michelle Meyrick
Youth Worker: Sally Palmer

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1. Lea Clark

2. Minutes

2.1. The minutes of the 20th October 2008, amendments - attendance should record that Lea Clark was not in attendance and Sasha Helstern was in attendance, subject to these amendments the minutes were agreed by the Council and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Event ideas for 2009.

3.1. There was a lengthy discussion on this topic and it was felt that the next event should be aimed at younger people. The bingo event was a great success and fun but that was used to show older people that the young can be responsible. A list of ideas was put forward: -

- Music Festival - a day or two with a few bands, battle of the bands.
- Fun Fair
- Disco - it was reported that the police SNAP team are putting on discos at certain times of the year such as Halloween, 19th December etc.

3.2. A planning activity session meeting is taking place on the 11th December at the Community Centre. This is for various groups around the town to get together to find out what events are being planned for 2009. It was thought a good idea for the Youth Council to attend.

It was agreed for Michelle to attend the planning activity meeting along with any Youth Councillors.

3.3. Lewis reported on a campaign for Norfolk which is similar to a card that is used in Suffolk called the Xcape card which is an id card as well as provides cheaper travel for 11-19 year olds. It was reported that this is something the Norfolk Youth Parliament are trying to do something about. Lucy Bennett who is the Youth Parliament member for this area is meeting with the Chief Executive of First Eastern Counties buses to discuss issues of travel for young people.

It was agreed that Emily would contact Lucy Bennett giving support to the issue of travel for young people in Norfolk, asking what Swaffham can do to help.

4. Youth Council website.

4.1. The Town Council has agreed that Anglia Computer Solutions will provide a new website for them. ACS has agreed that they will provide a website for the Youth Council with no set up charges but would charge an annual fee for hosting the website address. A discussion took place relating to the detail to go on the website. Ideas for the website are as follows: -

- Home page with brief explanation of what we are and what we do
- Photos
- long term projects page
- agenda & minutes
- members page
- events page with pictures
- calendar
- forum
- members only forum

5. Report from Mario relating to a road crossing problem.

5.1. Mario has received a complaint about the crossing by the White Hart and the deli on Cley Road, there should be a zebra crossing. There followed a discussion and it was established that a zebra crossing would be unlikely in this area Norfolk County Council should be asked to look at the safety in this area.

It was agreed for Michelle to write to Norfolk County Council on behalf of the Youth Council about pedestrian safety while crossing Cley Road.

6. Breckland Youth Council.

6.1. Michelle issued leaflets to all members giving details of the Breckland Youth Council election taking place in February 2009. The question is whether any SYTC would like to be put forward to the BYC.

It was agreed to invite Caroline Cox, the youth engagement officer for Breckland to the January meeting to discuss this.

7. Big Challenge Grant.

7.1. This is information that was given to the council from Sally Palmer. It is a grant called the Big Challenge and it has a pot of £60,000 to be given out in grants. This year's challenge is called 'Your Life, Your Decision. They are asking young people for a project or campaign that helps other young people lead a more positive and healthy life in one of these areas: drugs, sex and alcohol, sustainable living, gang culture or healthy living. The deadline is the 12th January. The deadline for any submission is tight. If any councillors have any ideas on this to let Michelle know asap.

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7.2. It was thought that it would be good to invite the Matthew project to come to Swaffham for an event in the future. This could be placed on a future agenda.

8. Issues for information only.

8.1. We have received a questionnaire for young people to give their views on services supporting them dealing with the stresses and pressures of life. The deadline is the 19th December; youth councillors were encouraged to complete the questionnaire.

8.2. It was reported that there are a number of high pitched sounders called Mosquito's attached to private houses. Sally reported that she thought it would be a good idea for youth councillors to attend the police SNAP meetings where residents discuss problem areas. This is something that could be brought up at that meeting. The next meeting is in February; Michelle will e-mail everyone when it is.

9. Date of next meetings

9.1. The next meeting will be on Monday 12th January at 6.30pm.

Meeting finished at 8.00pm

Chairman_____