

**SWAFFHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Swaffham Youth Council meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at the Town Hall, Swaffham.

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

Christopher Babey, Lea Clark, Lewis Hanrahan,  
Sasha Helstern, Amy Head, Sophie Willis, Morgan Creed.

Mayor: Cllr Shirley Matthews  
Deputy Town Clerk: Michelle Meyrick  
Youth Worker: Sally Palmer  
Angie Bell  
Breckland Council: Caroline Cox  
Oasis Centre Andrew Jeffery

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes.

2.1. The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008, amendments - attendance should record that Amy Head was in attendance, subject to these amendments the minutes were agreed by the Council and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Caroline Cox - Breckland Youth Council.

3.1. Caroline Cox who is the Youth Engagement Officer from Breckland Council was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson. She gave details of the Breckland Youth Council election. There will be 15 places for the council and they are seeking members from Dereham, Swaffham, Watton, Attleborough and Thetford. The deadline for applications is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and a launch event is planned for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

4. Activity Planning Meeting.

4.1. Michelle attended this meeting along with Amy and Sally on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. This was mainly to find out when other organisations in Swaffham are having events so that duplication does not occur. For instance the community policing team along with Icení had been organising discos but Hamonds were doing the same. The idea is to collate a diary of youth events that span the year. It was also agreed to put together a online survey to find out what sort of events the youth would like, this is on the town council website and a link has been sent to Hamonds and Icení so they can encourage people to fill it in. This will be available until the end of January. There is another

## PAGE 19

planning meeting planned which will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 4.15pm in the Community Centre, if anyone wants to attend please let me know.

### 5. Andrew Jeffery from the Oasis Centre

5.1. Andy was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson as the Youth Council have come up with some ideas for music events. Andy has organised Battle of the Bands in the past with the Oasis Centre. It was thought a good idea to get as many people involved as possible. Mario and Lewis are going to talk to the music teacher at Hamonds High School, Morgan and Emily are talking to the Sacred Heart and Andy is going to talk with Litcham High school to see if they would like to be a part of this event. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda for further discussion.

### 6. Matthew Project idea.

6.1. This is something that was brought up at the last meeting. The Matthew project is an organisation that gives information about the risks of drugs and alcohol. It was thought that this would be good to invite this organisation or similar to any event such as the music festival to highlight the effects of drugs and alcohol.

### 7. Report Re: Bus Travel Cost For Young People.

7.1. Emily has received a copy of the minutes of the meeting that was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December concerning transport issues. The meeting was with the Norfolk Youth Parliament members and Steve Wickers from First Buses and Ian Hydes from Norfolk County Council. Listed below are some of the points that were made by Steve and Ian: -

- Every bus company in Norfolk offers reduced fares for children under 16 and some offer reduced rates for over 16s in full time education.
- There is no legislation for discounted fares for young people.
- Young people living more than 3 miles from school get a discounted annual rate whilst in full time education.
- Discounted schemes are hugely expensive and many local authorities do not have the money to support them. In Kent the scheme costs £12 million and in Suffolk over £2 million.
- In Suffolk the scheme (half price fares for all under 19s) was seen as a success with an increase in the number of people using the services.
- Similar arguments for why the over 60s should have free bus travel can be applied to the under 19s too e.g. a 13 year old without a source of income cannot use another means of travel, especially in rural areas.
- Ian and Steve both expressed the personal view that the government missed an opportunity when they granted free travel to all over 60s instead they could have offered a very low flat rate to all bus users such as 50p a journey.
- UKYP's Fares Fair report shows that 83% of young people would use public transport more often if it was cheaper.

## PAGE 20

- The County Council have investigated lots of possible discount schemes but the costs are just huge and there are difficult implications to such schemes due to the size of the county.
- Even with the over 60s scheme, a massive amount of funding was provided by the government but it still didn't cover the full cost of the scheme so local authorities had to make cuts in services in other areas. The same would have to be true if a young people's discount card was introduced.

There followed a lengthy discussion on this issue and it was thought that the best way forward was to write to the local MP Christopher Fraser asking if he would take this issue to government.

### 8. Update Report on the Pedestrian Safety Issue - Cley Road.

8.1. Michelle wrote a letter to Norfolk County Council last month and spoke to the Highways engineer Jason Glasspoole just before Christmas. She will be meeting with Jason when he comes to Swaffham to discuss other highway issues that have been brought up by the Town Group. It looks likely that he will be looking at signage for the area to make people more aware of the dangers but won't know for sure until she has met with him. Michelle will let the council know when that will be.

### 9. Open Learning Day at Hamonds High School.

9.1. The Youth Council has been invited to have a stand to promote the youth council at Hamonds on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. It is from 9am-6pm. Michelle will be there to set the stand up and be there until noon. Sally will be available in the afternoon with students of Hamonds from the council throughout the afternoon. As this is on a school day the students from the Sacred Heart are not able to attend. Each youth council member will be putting together a paragraph of information about themselves with a photograph for the display board. Flyers detailing the Youth Council and contact info will be available on the stand. Other things that would be highlighted are: -

- Bingo event
- Battle of Bands event
- Cheaper Bus Travel campaign
- Pedestrian Safety
- Youth Survey

### 10. E-mail from the RSPB.

10.1. An email was received from David White who is the Community Information Officer for the RSPB at Lakenheath Fen. His job is to promote the RSPB and to encourage people to visit the reserves. He asked if he could come and give a talk to the Youth Council about the RSPB and about volunteering opportunities for young people with the RSPB. It was thought it would be a better idea to invite David to an organised event in the future where he would be able to reach more young people.

## PAGE 21

### 11. The Next SNAP Meeting.

11.1. The next SNAP meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Assembly Rooms. It was thought a good idea if representatives from the Youth Council could attend this meeting as it is open to the public. Members of the youth council are to let Michelle know if they wish her to attend with them.

### 12. Issues for information only.

12.1. Congratulations to Amy for getting funding of £12,392 from the Norfolk Youth Fund to hold the Youthie Club in the Community Centre. This is a great achievement, well done.

12.2. The Twinning Club would like to come and talk to you at some point. It was thought a good idea to ask them to come to the March meeting.

12.3. The Town Council holds a Town Assembly every year and this year it will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April in the Assembly Rooms at 7pm. The council reports to the public everything that they have been involved with over the past 12months. It was thought a good idea to have the Chair and Vice Chair give a report from the Youth Council over their past year.

12.4. A training event was discussed for Youth Councillors which Sally would organise with Michelle. This would include things like how to chair a meeting, role of a youth councillor etc. A date was put forward - 2<sup>nd</sup> May which is a possibility. This will be put on the next agenda for confirmation.

12.5. Recruitment is something that needs to be looked at seriously. This will be placed on the next agenda for full discussion.

12.6. It was reported that the Youth Council needs to hold an Annual General Meeting and the month of June was put forward. This issue will be placed on the next agenda for a full discussion.

### 13. Date of next meeting.

13.1. The next meeting will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Meeting finished at 8.00pm

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_