

SWAFFHAM YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Inaugural Swaffham Youth Council meeting of the 3rd March 2008 at the Town Hall, Swaffham.

In attendance: Chris Babey, Becky Balls, Emily Bell, Lea Clark, Morgan Creed, Ryan Duke, Mário Goncalves, Lewis Hanrahan, Amy Head, Sasha Helstern, Louisa Ive, Lauren Sinclair, Sophie Willis, Emily Wright.

Town Mayor: Cllr Shirley Matthews
Town Clerk: Richard Bishop
Deputy Town Clerk: Michelle Meyrick

1. Apologies for Absence.

- 1.1. Clare Gibson due to a family commitment.
- 1.2. Sally Palmer due to working on her dissertation.

2. Welcome by the Mayor Shirley Matthews.

2.1. Cllr Shirley Matthews gave a welcome speech to the members of the Youth Council at the first official meeting of the Swaffham Youth Council.

3. Youth Council constitution.

3.1. A copy of the draft constitution was given to everyone in attendance. It was agreed that this would be put on the next agenda for approval.

4. Discussion on areas of improvement in Swaffham.

- 4.1. The Youth Council discussed many things of importance including: -
 - Cinema - Need more recent and popular films.
 - Location is often too long to walk to.
 - Swimming Pool - the question was is Swaffham going to get one? The Mayor explained the problems that had occurred with the private finance initiative (PFI) deal that stopped Breckland previously of helping Swaffham with getting a pool. Breckland Council has had a review of the PFI deal and found that this is not the case is Swaffham is outside of the 10 mile restriction zone. The Town Council are in the process of buying a piece of land near the EcoTech for a swimming pool. It will then be up to the

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Swimming Pool Association (SPA) to get funding to build one and then funding to run it.

- Museum & TIC Centre - It was asked why it is being moved? It was explained that Breckland used to run the Tourist Information Centre but has decided not to run it anymore. It handed the toilets and TIC building to the town council. The town council agreed that their best option was to find another organisation to run the TIC but they would give funding for them to do so. The museum were asked if they would like to carry out this service as they are centrally located and are open Tuesday - Saturday, which they agreed.
- Planning - With houses being built in Swaffham, more facilities are needed in the town.
- Northwell Pool - It was explained that the town council are currently working on a project to enhance the area.
- Recreation Ground - The recreation ground project was outlined to the youth council. The council has been successful in a £50,000 lottery bid to improve the toddler/junior play area. Other areas that want to be improved in the future are the teenage play equipment, installation of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), toilets etc. It was explained that grant funding is needed to allow all the projects to happen, unfortunately this takes time.
- Assembly Rooms - The rooms are too expensive to hire.
- Community Centre - More benches are needed down there. Do not like the colours on the outside of the building.
- Events for young people - There should be weekly, fortnightly events in Swaffham like a common room with vending machines etc. An after school club for study purposes. Would like a youth club.
- Graffiti Wall - somewhere to do it properly and legally.
- Shops - There are too many empty shops in Swaffham which is a problem. Plowright Place is looking run down; something should be done about it. There is not much variety of things in the supermarkets.
- Market - This has gone down hill. The market committee are very aware of this problem but unfortunately this is happening all over the country not just Swaffham. People tend to buy more things via the internet cheaper than coming into the town also most people work so do not have the time like they used to.
- Sixth Form building - What will happen to the building when the sixth form is moved down to Hamonds. The Hamonds Trust own

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the building, we do not know what they will do. They also own the field by the water tower.

- Whitsands Road roundabout - This is a dangerous roundabout, there is a blind spot when you come from Whitecross Road end as you cannot see cars from the town centre end.
- By-pass - Is Swaffham going to get one? It was explained that Swaffham is very low on the list to get one so it is very unlikely unless something major happens that we will get one.
- Christmas lights - This used to be done by the Chamber of Trade but they finished a few years ago. Some councillors got together to do something, Icen partnership did a something last Christmas. There is a new business group who are looking at doing something. The Town Council put lights on the Town Hall and the Buttercross. Icen do the lights on the Assembly Rooms.

5. Town Council's Annual Town Assembly and Youth Council involvement.

5.1. The members were each given a disposable camera and asked to take pictures of things they like and dislike about Swaffham. If they lived outside of the town they could take pictures of things that they like in other areas, things they would like to see in Swaffham. They were asked to hand in their cameras to points of contact at their schools by Thursday 13th March.

5.2. The youth council were asked to meet up again on Monday 17th March whereby all the photographs will be developed. A discussion of them could take place in preparation for the display at the Town Groups workshop on 7th April and the Town Assembly on the 15th April.

6. Publicity for the Youth Council.

6.1. Various options for publicity were discussed including: -

- Newsletter - to have a $\frac{1}{2}$ page article
- News article to be included in the Lynn News and the EDP with photographs
- Meeting each term with each school
- Own website

Meeting finished at 8.00pm

Chairperson.....