



St Andrews Parish Council

Minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7:30pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Kola Beyioku (Chairman), Dan Adams (Vice-Chairman), Bradley Williams
Officer Present: Debbie Braiden (Deputy Clerk)
Public Present: 2 guest speakers, Mr Khan, and Jonathon Stone from Inner Flame

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chandler and Morris.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21st November 2022 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (i) Members noted that Full Council had approved for the Youth Task Group to be changed to committee status with the attached, Terms of Reference. Cllr Adams thanked Full Council for recognising the importance of the Youth Group within the community.
- (ii) The Deputy Clerk confirmed that Full Council approved for the remaining budget of this current financial year and amounting to £1650, will remain in earmarked reserves for the Youth Committee and that £4,000 had been allocated in the budget for the next financial year. Members noted that they have an available budget of £5,650 from 1st April 2023.

5. YOUTH PROGRAMME

- (i) The chairman invited Jon from Inner Flame to take the floor. Jon introduced himself as the Team Leader from Inner Flame, which had been founded in 2008. He explained what the charity does through a variety of courses. These courses were aimed at young people not working or in full time education. The three courses, Manage Anxiety, Achieve & the Princes Trust Programme were designed to assist with managing anxieties, building confidence and life skills. Jon also informed the council that a new course was being developed to work with schools for children with low attendance, and for which, schools can refer pupils to Inner Flame. Members were impressed with the charity's work but confirmed their finances were restrictive, however, they were happy to endorse Inner Flame through their own contacts. They also confirmed they would like to stay in contact with a view to support and work together in the future.
- (ii) Members discussed continuing with offering activities for the youth following a successful trial in Summer 2022. They **RESOLVED** to approve the re-booking of BEST children's activities, for programmed events in the Easter and Summer 2023 holidays. For the same as last year, 8 sessions of two hours, over four weeks in August, plus, one, two-hour session in each week of the Easter holidays making a total of 20 hourly sessions @ £100 per hour. The Youth Committee members ask for this spend of £2000 to be approved at the next Full Council meeting.
- (iii) The chairman invited Mr Khan to take the floor. Mr Khan introduced himself and explained a little about the activities he already helps to provide for the local community, such as Arabic lessons, prayer sessions and indoor football at Abbey Park School. He informed the council he was very interested in starting up a regular meeting place aimed more for youth from the ages of 12 to 16. He envisaged a place where local youth could meet, play games, and chill out. He confirmed he had a group of local volunteers backing

for support and was confident he could finance the idea. He was asking the council to provide storage for the youth club equipment, such as a lock up container/shed within the community centre grounds.

All agreed in principle the proposal was good, however, members were conscious their budget was limited, and were planning to spend half of their budget with BEST activities. They decided this could be revisited during the year. Full Council will be approached to gain permission to site future storage in the grounds of the Community Centre and to discuss the purchase of future storage.

6. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- (i) Members noted this service is now free of charge. **RESOLVED** - members agreed to request Swindon Borough youth workers to carry out outreach sessions when the weather improves, specifically with youth that were not engaged with our previous questionnaire in schools. The youth workers will formalise information gathered in a report back to the council.
- (ii) Members agreed and **RESOLVED** to defer this item and revisit the need for a part-time youth worker later in the year.
- (iii) Cllr B Williams confirmed he will be obtaining relevant information for the email list to send out the questionnaire for a second tranche.
- (iv) Members confirmed they would like to introduce more activities like the Immersive Technology & Theatre. Cllr B Williams will obtain further information for this, and members noted the costs of the course would be £275 available for 50 children. Cllr B Williams confirmed he would also obtain costs for music lessons/sessions.
- (v) With the opening of our new gym area in Brook Park, members agreed a youth event connected to this would be a good idea. They **RESOLVED** to organise an event incorporating the new gym and a training session for youth to include inviting local sports people, for example Swindon Town footballers.
- (vi) Members noted correspondence received, 'Introduction and networking', from Stratton St Margaret's youth worker and her offer of advice in starting up our youth programme
- (vii) The chairman confirmed he had contacted the Great Western Academy to arrange a meeting with their pupil parliament but had not heard back. He asked the Deputy Clerk to make further enquiries to arrange a meeting.

7. LITTER PICK EVENT

Discussions took place as to when and where a litter pick could be held that would encourage children to take part. It was **RESOLVED** to book the litter pick date after the election period. The litter pick will be held on 19th May at 3.15 p.m. in the Bridlewood, Lady Lane and Roman Villa field area. Bridlewood school will be invited to help after school finishes. All equipment will be provided, and rubbish removed by the parish council.

8. YOUTH STRATEGY

Cllr Beyioku confirmed he had created a draft strategy and was still awaiting a youth report for certain information to be able to finalise it.

Note: Cllr Adams asked do we need more frequent meetings and for this to be added to the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9:38pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____