

Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

A.	Date of meeting: 12/05/26
B.	Meeting Start Time: 18.05pm
C.	Where is the meeting: WSM Council Chambers
D.	<p>Attendance – Oliver (OM) Natalie (NM) Ian (IR) Zac (ZR) Leo (LH) Lily (LAP) Alexa (AL) Inara (IP) Isaac (IS) Ivy (II)</p> <p>Eleanor (EH)- Chair Alli Waller (AW)- YMCA – Youth& Community- Programmes Manager Warren Parker Mills (WPM)- Communications & Visitor Experience Manager Sarah Pearse (SP)- Chief Executive Officer/ Town Clerk</p>
E.	<p>Welcome – EH welcomed all members present including new member Isaac -Introductions were made.</p>
1.	Apologies for Absence – Sam B (SB)
2.	Declarations of Interest – None
3.	<p>Notes of Last Meeting – Grammatical errors were highlighted and noted. Proposed- OM Second- IP RESOLVED: Noting the grammatical errors, the meeting notes were approved.</p>
4.	Grants – None to be reviewed
5.	<p>EH introduced -WTC-CEO- Sarah Pearse SP -Explained the grant process to members- The total grants budget available is £3,000. Youth organisations can apply for grants of up to £500 per application. Grant application forms are initially reviewed by the Weston Town Council Finance Team to ensure applicants meet the eligibility criteria and financial requirements before being presented to the Youth Council. It was noted that the funding has not been widely used over the past two years, creating a good opportunity to encourage more local groups and organisations to apply. Discussion took place around how to effectively advertise and promote the grant funding to youth organisations within the town area. Grants can only be awarded to projects and organisations operating within the Weston Town area. Funding can only be awarded for the specific items or purposes outlined within the application. Applicants must clearly state where any additional funding or contributions have come from within their application.</p>

	<p>SP Asked -if the Youth council had promoted the process? and had they utilised the Town Council for promoting the Grant process?</p> <p>OM- Explained that they had included it in the Newsletter, which had been sent out on their Social media and had also been sent to SB but to his knowledge had not been shared as it didn't go out to public.</p> <p>AW -Thought SB had sent this to internal staff to share, however had not seen it out to the public.</p> <p>SP- For all future correspondence, if it is sent to wsmcomms@wsm-tc.go.uk</p> <p>WPM- Suggested If you can highlight what you want us to achieve, then it will help our team promote it the best way.</p> <p>Any other questions?</p> <p>AL- I run a climate group- and we lost a grant recently- would we be able to apply for a grant?</p> <p>SP- Yes- fill in the application form, however there may be an issue as its with paying an academy as this is a school initiative.</p> <p>Actions- OM to send any correspondence to the WTC comms team via email address above with a clear instruction of where we want it to be seen, social media portals, noticeboards, websites, etc.</p>
6.	<p>Newsletter- Review next editions entries-</p> <p>OM- Explained that Google classroom had been set up for all members to join and help to edit documents and add their work to the newsletter. The first one had gone out but needed to be shared more. The hard work is done, we just need to update each area. IR agreed that we need to share more.</p> <p>AW- There was deadlines set but some members had not submitted their pieces of work. If those could be in before the next deadline 5th July? so we are ready to post Google classroom- all to join-</p> <p>IP – I will do an updated list of events nearer the time so they are relevant.</p> <p>AW- Suggested going onto visit Weston and what's on as they advertise events for the whole year.</p> <p>OM - Members need to be more pro-active in sending content. Including more photos.</p> <p>SP- Will challenge her team to create a grant form – on their site that supports the youth council application Warren</p> <p>WPM – It is really tough putting a newsletter together. I struggle getting content for our editions.</p> <p>SP- Suggested finding models that work for you like-</p> <p>Quick wins- Look how the YC has grown- that leads nicely into a hook for young people to join.</p> <p>or noting that members committed to having a full attendance at each YC meeting.</p> <p>WPM - I am happy to help to achieve this</p> <p>AW- When deadlines are set, try and achieve these and attend meetings.</p>

	<p>OM -Said they don't at the moment.</p> <p>WPM- Suggested a QR code as the Town Council has this. I can help with that also. Will give you a better understanding of who you are reaching.</p> <p>AL- Could we do adopt a spot in the newsletter and a post about the summer school with the MP?</p> <p>OM -It might be too late for the next edition but if someone was attending the summer school, they could do a post about it just afterwards.</p> <p>AL -I will be attending.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OM to arrange to meet with WPM to discuss comms and database • Members to submit their contributions to the newsletter by 5th July • Members to sign into the google classroom to ensure they can amend and see any changes made to documents being worked on.
7.	<p>Gender Neutral Toilet proposal – update</p> <p>AW- updated the members on the above proposal from the last meetings on AOB suggesting that schools need to be more aware of young peoples needs around using toilets.</p> <p>The question was what schools currently have GN toilets?</p> <p>Hans Price – entirely gender neutral</p> <p>Worle- None, there are extra toilets but these are either out of use or currently being used for staff only.</p> <p>Winterstoke hundred?</p> <p>Priory – Not currently they use disabled ones if they need to.</p> <p>Weston College – Gender neutral options</p> <p>SP- Suggested that a letter to all schools and colleges to ask if their toilets and changing rooms are gender neutral and are they intentional or repurposed?</p> <p>OM- Schools are not responding to emails sent by us, they are not taken seriously.</p> <p>SP- Make it clear and give a deadline. Word it as freedom of information request.</p> <p>WPM- Happy to help with the letter do you have your own email address?</p> <p>LH- No but I have been looking into this as all our correspondence goes through</p> <p>AW- It would be great to have our own together with our own website which we can link to the WTC and YMCA.</p> <p>SP- why not use some of your budget to set this up.</p> <p>LH- That would be great I have looked at some potential ideas, happy to share.</p> <p>WPM- when setting up things ask if there is a discount</p> <p>Proposal- To use some of the budget- to buy dedicated an email address for Weston youth council and a domain for website-</p> <p>Propose LH</p> <p>Second – IS</p> <p>All agreed – Unanimous decision</p>

	<p>OM – The youth Parliament is developing a youth rights charter; their next meeting is on 15th of July. Youth Council members have been invited to attend the meeting. Who would like to go? Its 5- 730pm? Let AW know.</p> <p>SP - You could be the team that drives this important subject- Once you have your replies from the schools, why not take your findings to the youth Parliament. LH & AL said they would be happy to speak at the Youth Parliament meeting.</p> <p>Actions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LH to meet with WPM took into and set up email and website by next meeting • OM to meet with WPM to draw up a letter for schools • All members to notify AW if they will be attending the YP meeting on the 15th July
8.	<p>Adopt a Spot – Update</p> <p>AW-Reminded the members about the adopt a spot initiative around keeping the town cleaner</p> <p>AL- Has adopted a spot and used what three words (WTW) as suggested and she has cleaned their area-</p> <p>WPM- Asked why not use google maps, as this would be much easier to map out?</p> <p>LH- The reason we used the WTW so that it is more fun.</p> <p>AL- We can start with WTW and as we develop we can then transition into google if needed.</p> <p>WPM – Re Litter picking if you are happy to collaborate with WTC. We have litter pickers you can borrow also it will help to educate tourists if we can link it to our tourist website.</p> <p>SP- We can organise for any rubbish collected to be picked up</p> <p>Actions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By next meeting- everyone will have adopted a spot and let OM know • Add link to website once set up
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>AW-Youth Strategy- the youth strategy has been completely redone thank you LH.</p> <p>LH- I have totally rebranded the document please take a look</p> <p>IR- looks great.</p> <p>OM- We can start promoting it on our social media- please everyone share.</p> <p>AW- Town Council meeting can our attendance at the Town Council AGM be added to the Social media.</p> <p>OM- Social media has died, a bit. We need more stuff – New content-</p> <p>SP asked if the Youth council were on LinkedIn, if not set up a page?</p> <p>Wellbeing bench- AW- the bench now has its base coat and ready for us to decorate it- I propose we do it during half term, say 26th May – 2-4pm</p> <p>All agreed-</p>

	<p>Chair- Final Say- EH informed the youth council that due to exams and commuting from Taunton regularly now she has moved that she would unfortunately have to step down as chair.</p> <p>EH said “I have really enjoyed my time as chair I have met many friends through the youth council and wish everyone well”</p> <p>AW thanked EH for her time and explained that now this leaves a vacancy. I will send out the role description to all members and how to apply for the role as chair and three other officer roles-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Grants Health & wellbeing Climate & Environment <p>Voting will take place at the next meeting.</p> <p>EH ended her last meeting.</p>
10.	Meeting ended- 19.38pm
11.	Date of Next Meeting – 09/05/24