

Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

A.	Date of meeting: 14 th October 2025
B.	Meeting Start Time: 18.05pm
C.	Where is the meeting: Blakehay Theatre lounge
D.	Attendance – Oliver (OM) Ian (IR) Zac (ZR) Inara (IP) Lily (LP) Sammy (SG) Ivy (II) Alli W (AW) YMCA Youth Officer Evan Linde (EL) (Communications Officer – WSMTC) Jemma Coles (JC) From the Blakehay management committee joined the meeting at 6.40pm
F.	Welcome – AW welcomed everyone to the Blakehay and thanked JC for hosting the youth council meeting in the Blakehay lounge. AW explained that as both the Chair & Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting, would anyone like to chair the meeting in their absence- none offered so AW continued-
1.	Apologies for Absence – Sam B (SB) Natalie (NM) Eleanor (EH) Alexa
2.	Declarations of Interest – None
3.	Notes of Last Meeting – AW asked if there was any issues with the meeting notes. All members agreed there was no amendments. Proposed- OM Second- ZR
4.	Welcome new members- no new members present today
5.	Music Event – JC &..... from the Blakehay management company joined the meeting to discuss and help plan the music event to be held on the new date of January 25 th 2026- Reason for event - JC asked what the event was in aid of? OM said it was to raise money for a mental health charity called Off the Record and also to showcase young people’s talents. Length of Event- JC asked how long the event was planned – AW explained that the original plan was to hold the event from 2-4pm, however have access from 10am -5pm to help set up, rehearsals and tidy up. JC said that would ok as it would give each act the chance to rehearse. Equipment Hire- JC then explained that they no longer have instruments so if they were needed, we would need to borrow some. ZR explained that as his band was performing, they would have all instruments however most bands are happy to share equipment apart from a drum kit and possibly a keyboard. JC suggested contacting the college to see if they can help. OM suggested Worle school as a backup. Tech Staff - JC also said that there would be an extra cost to hire in tech staff so it

	<p>would be an idea to contact the college to see if there were any level three tech staff that would like to help as part of their course.</p> <p>Raffle – JC asked if we intended to hold a raffle. IR said yes and AW explained that she had looked into needing a gambling license the outcome was that as long as the tickets were sold and drawn on the day. JC said we would need a card machine to take payments. EL said that he was sure the Town Council had some machines, and he would check.</p> <p>JC discussed the possible use of the lounge before the event as a preshow event. The draw back from that would be that if there was not enough tickets sales to cover staffing at the bar. To be decided.</p> <p>JC asked for a new poster as the previous one was not available since the takeover. EL sent one across straight away with the new date on.</p> <p>Cost of the event was discussed has been reviewed- changed to £5.00 (to include a programme) to make it more affordable to young people.</p> <p>JC will put new poster on to socials and put the event live for ticket sales.</p> <p>AW to contact College re-equipment and tech support.</p> <p>All members to share poster with friends and family to promote sales.</p> <p>EL to draw up a ticket sales plan – and look into card machines.</p> <p>All members to look at getting more raffles prizes.</p>
6.	<p>Newsletter- AW showed the members a mock newsletter so they could get an idea of how it may look. EL explained it would be helpful for all members to take a section of the newsletter to work on. A decision was made on who would take each part as follows-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Message (Eleanor) A short introduction (approx. 100–150 words) welcoming readers, summarising recent activities, and outlining what’s included in this issue. - Highlights of the Month/Term Upcoming events (Oliver) Summarising what the youth council has been up to, community Projects (maybe include a couple of photos) - Members section (ZAC) highlight a member with a quote of the Month (including why the members joined and what their interests are) - Feature Story (Ivy)- Look into young people who do things to benefit others or spotlight a club through a member’s eyes. - Upcoming Events & Opportunities (Inara) investigate what events are around for young people to attend, this could be groups. Also, what events the youth council are attending. - Get Involved (Ian) All the information to help young people apply to join the youth council. - Grants information- (Natalie) include how to apply to the youth council for grants. Including the link to the WTC website for the application form. How to apply for youth grants. <p>Acknowledgements -can also be included, thanking those that support the youth council.</p>

	All members to complete their tasks by 22/11
7.	<p>Upcoming Events- -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -7th November – Carnival night Meet – 5-7pm at the youth hub- Bristol Rd Lower- -9th November -Remembrance parade- Grove Park - 10.45am -15th November -Christmas lights switch on – Time TBC -24th November Town Council Meeting- Town Hall- 7pm -14th December Christmas Carol concert- St. John’s Church, BS23 2AG- 4pm -Saturday 25th January - Young Peoples music event – Blakehay Theatre 10am -5pm (event 2-4pm)
8	Wellbeing bench- As the weather has drawn in, we will have to postpone until new year. AW will arrange a date in the new year with Lisa from the grounds team.
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>SG announced that unfortunately due to work and university commitments, she will not be able to attend future meetings, however she is happy to support in the background.</p> <p>OM –told members that he had done three assembly’s in his schools, to trial a presentation to promoting the youth council. OM said they had gone really well and his idea is to go into all schools to promote the youth council to ages 11 – 14Yrs KS3</p> <p>OM also explained that young people’s voting rights had been discussed and he felt very strongly about this. He felt that as a youth council, we could take the opportunity to help create resources for schools, so young people could make more informed choices when the begin to vote.</p> <p>OM- informed the youth council members that he attended the first meeting of the N Somerset Youth Parliament-, he explained that as part of their strategy they had chosen three priorities-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved mental health support with few waiting lists. -Inappropriate racists and hateful behaviour (OM has chosen to work in that focus group) - Safer environment. <p>OM - also informed the members that he had chosen to run for MEP – representing N Somerset which would be party free. All members congratulated him and said he would make a great candidate.</p>
10.	<p>Meeting ended-</p> <p>7.05pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting –</p> <p>11/11/24</p>