Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

A.	**Date of meeting**: 12/11 2024
B.	**Meeting Start Time**: 18.06pm
C.	**Where is the meeting:** YMCA Youth Cafe
D.	**Attendance** – Sammy **(SG)** Oliver **(OM)** Natalie **(NM)** Ian **(IR)** Mylee **(MRD)** Zac **(ZR**) Eleanor **(EH)** Ellis **(ER)**Ben **(BW)** **Aimee (AM), Shannon (SC) Harry (HW) Kelly (KW) Lillie-Anne (LAP) Charly (CW)** Alli W **(AW)** Sally Heath **(SH)**Crystal B **(CB)**
F.	**Welcome** – **EH** Welcomed old and new members to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves and said what school/College they are from and their role in the youth council if they held one. **AW** added if the new members did not understand any of the process then they could just ask for an explanation at any time throughout the meeting.
1.	**Apologies for Absence** – Sam Bishop **(SB)** Councillor Pecak-Michallowicz **(CPM)**
2.	**Declarations of Interest** – None
3.	**Notes of Last Meeting** – Item 7, paragraph 3, **SG** stated the wrong person had said the comment – Initial's changed to **IR** Proposed - **OM** Second - **NM**
4	**Wellbeing event- Feedback** **EH** asked the members how they though the event went **IR** said Personally I thought it went well, but not communicated enough to the public. **EH** said we should have contacted the local schools. **AW** said that all schools had been contacted and asked if everyone if they promoted it through their on social media and checked with their schools if they were promoting it? **IR, OM & ER** said they had. **ER** said we had good ideas it just needed to be sent to more people. **AW** added that **OM** is the communications officer however everyone should take ownership of promoting events to ensure more people attend the events.
4.	Forthcoming events- - **Weston Carnival drop- in session feedback** – **EH** asked the members how they thought the session went. **IR** said it was very calm and everyone that attended seemed to enjoy it, but he thought more people would attend. **AW** said the feedback from those that attended was positive and the reason the session was put on was the youth council wanted to encourage more young people to meet up before the carnival in a safe

	place and utilise the youth hub space more often. We have had four young people that attended this session have since returned to other sessions. Which is great. The more events the Youth Council put on and promote, the more young people will want to attend them. We even had a large family pop in at the end of the session. ER said he had signposted them into the session as he was leaving. - **Remembrance parade** – **AW** said that Rebecca Saunders (the Mayor's PA) had called to say that she wanted to pass on her congratulations to **EH** for the laying of the wreath. She said she was very calm and professional during the service. She also said it was lovely to meet **ER** and good to see some of the other members of the youth council present well done. **EH** said it was really enjoyed taking part laying the wreath. - **Christmas lights switch on– EH** asked members if they were attending the Christmas lights switch on. NM asked the date and **IR** asked where it was. **AW** explained that the Christmas light switch on would be at the Italian gardens, however she would check to see if they were invited to the Council Chambers before. She explained that unfortunately she would be able to attend with them due to a prior engagement, but another member of staff would be there if needed. She will check with Rebecca and let them know. Would anyone like to attend? **ER ZR, BW, LAP & EH** said the should be able to attend. OM said there was a lot of events that day but he should be able to attend. - **St Peters Church carol service** – **EH** explained that **AW** had invited the Youth Council to attend the Christmas Carol service with her at S Peters Church on the 15th December. **AW** explained that YMCA staff had always supported the carol service as a team, but offered the youth service to attend with them. **OM** asked what time that would be and **AW** explained it was much earlier this year, 3pm start. Just let **AW** know if you will be attending.
5.	-**Event Planning**- **AW** explained that at the last meeting members had voted for the music fundraiser to be held at the Blakehey theatre and a date in February half term had been offered. She said that now that date wasn't available but they had been offered the 27th September. **AW** introduced - Sally Heath the Blakehay Theatre Manager to talk about her Role with the Town Council and answer any questions the youth councillors have regarding the fundraiser **SH** told the members that she had worked for the Town Council for 13 .5 years in various different roles, and supporting Town council events such as the Quarry comedy event, Remembrance & Armed Forces Day. She now runs the Blakehay theatre along with two part-time technicians. Lots of community groups hire the space and also, they book big named shows such as Romesh Raganathan, Tom Allen and Dom Jolly. Blakehay also accommodates Children shows, and varied classes and youth theatre groups such as Super Culture **SH** said she would like to hold more youth programmes so would be happy to have any suggestions from members. **EH** thanked **SH** for letting us know what her role was and now asked youth Council members if they had any questions on the planning of their Proposed music event on 27/09/25.

	-ZR asked how long would we be able to have the Blakehay for. **SH** said the whole day but you would have to decide how long you would like the event to be open for? **-MRD** asked would we still run a battle of the bands theme, **SH** said, it takes a long time to set up each band and their equipment and do sound checks so it would be easier to have a mixture of acts. **ZR** agreed and said that would work. **-SG** asked if it was open to everyone, **AW** said yes, all young people as I'm sure schools and colleges have lots of local different talents. **-SH** agreed and said it would help to mix the talents in order to manage the timing and Acoustic bands would be so much easier - **IR** asked **SH** what equipment the Blakehey had and they could borrow. **SH** said they have PA system and lighting, but bands would need to bring their own. **ER** said as there are microphones the Youth Council could compare themselves. **SH** said she had spoken to her sound team and they were happy to work with the Youth Council and have them shadow their roles to learn about the process. Front of house staff were also happy to. **AW** told the Members that this was a great idea as all members had different qualities, some enjoyed being front of housing and others helping out with the behind the scenes roles. **SH** continued by saying that there were 207 seats in the theatre so the members would need to work out ticket prices, target audiences. **CB** said that the college members would be able to help out with equipment and marketing. **SG** said is this a fundraiser, and **AW** explained that had been decided at the last meeting so how could they incorporate it into the event. **SH** said you could have sponsorship, Raffle at front of house and Programmes selling advertising in them. Donation buckets is a good idea too. Theatre angels are companies that sponsor acts. **ER** asked how long would something like this event last. **SH** said a good time would be 2 hrs (50 minutes for the first half and 50 minutes for the second half with a 20-minute break in the middle) You will also need to ask Is this event to show case young talent or promote the youth council. **ER** said both really and **AW** agreed. **EH** asked if there would be auditions. **OM** said that would help reduce the time needed. **ZR** said each act could send in a video and then the youth council could narrow down the entries easier. **SG** asked where the money they were raising would be going too as she had an idea of a charity, Mind, it's a mental health charity. **AW** said that members could nominate a charity and decide, maybe a local young person's mental health charity at the next meeting. **ZR** – asked what the minimum time bands can perform **ER** said we would have to work that out. **AW** said they could do that in the working meeting. **SH** said that the youth council would have to make all these decisions ready for the tickets to go on sale by mid-May. She suggested that the youth council hold their February 11th meeting at the Blakehay, that way they can see the space and walk through how they think the day will work. **ZR** said that was a great idea. **ER** agreed. **AW** said that there was a lot to think about and we can use the working meetings to work through all the above points. **EH** thanked **SH** for attending the meeting.

6.	**Litter Issues**– **IR** said that litter is still a problem, was there any progress on the litter pick. **AW** said she was waiting on a reply from Debbie regarding a date. **SH** said do we know where we want to do the litter pick. **AW** said Debbie had highlighted the area around Weston youth centre, there is no public bins there so young people were just throwing their rubbish on the ground. Regular litter picks are done by YMCA staff but without a bin it will continue to be a problem. **EH** said he had noticed new bins on the seafront, **SG** said that fly -tipping is getting really bad again. **IR** continued to say that the bins were always full on the high street, **SH** believes there is a Service Level Agreement with Weston Bid for the emptying of the High street bin. **AW** said in order to approach the Town and North Somerset council, they will need evidence, so keep taking photos and noting where each bin is. **ER & IR** to forward contacts of other Litter picking groups **AW** to look at dates with Debbie Apted.
7.	
11.	**Any Other Business** **Carnival Float – IR** asked if they could do a carnival float next year **AW** explained that it was a very big commitment and it would take everyone to be committed. **SH** said she knew a few people that are involved in the carnival circuit and it cost around £45,000 pounds to put on a float and agreed it was a lot of commitment, a whole year of planning and then two weeks of every night. **IR** said, oh that's a big commitment, I couldn't commit to that, everyone agreed. **Wellbeing bench** – **MRD** asked if the wellbeing beach was still a possibility as they missed out due to the weather. If so could they can we still do it. **AW** said of course, she was just waiting to hear back from Fay Powell and see what the best time of year to do it would be. She will let them know when she hears back. **Newsletter- AW** said, now we have more members, it would be good to start doing a newsletter for young people, that can be distributed to schools, colleges and groups. **AW** asked if the College members would like to liaise with the Communications office and do this as their project. **CB** said that would be a great idea, they can work on it during their college time. **AW** said they had done one in the past but due to small membership they struggled to produce them regularly. We will put it on the agenda for next working meeting and **AW** will send a list of ideas to include, then the college members can make a draft for the youth council to look at.
12.	**Meeting ended – 19.13pm** **Date of Next Meeting** 10/12/24