

Minutes of a meeting of
Children and Young Adults Committee
Held on Tuesday 14th January 2025
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Fernandes, Grimes, Matic, Montgomery (Chair) & Tatla

Attending: B Winton (Chief Executive and Clerk to the Parish Council)

25/CYA/1

Public Questions

- 1.1 There were no public questions.

25/CYA/2

Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Johnson.
2.2 There were no declarations of members' interests.

It was **NOTED** that Councillors Fernandes, Johnson and Matic have children of school age.

25/CYA/3

Minutes of the previous meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Grimes
Seconded: Cllr Fernandes
Approved: Unanimously


11/3/25

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes

- 24/CYA/35.2 Clerk to invite representatives of Oakbank School and Swallowfield Parish Council to the next Education Working Party meeting

The Clerk had written to BClr Prue Bray on 11th December and again on 8th January requesting options for dates/times for the next Education Working Party meeting (she is away 10th-25th January). The intention was to invite representations from Oakbank School and Swallowfield Parish Council.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange the next Education Working Party meeting and invite representatives of Oakbank School and Swallowfield Parish Council to attend

- 24/CYA/37.2 Clerk to contact the Army Cadet Force (ACF) to see if they would be interested in participating in an event in 2025

This was on the agenda.

- 24/CYA/37.3 Clerk to arrange for increased signage around the Parish with QR codes to direct Youths to local groups

The Clerk had received a suggestion that the Youth Club be asked to design some posters that would appeal to the target audience. It was agreed that the Clerk would put this to the Youth Club.

ACTION – Clerk to request the Youth Club to design posters aimed at young people

- 24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to prepare options and quotes for displaying activities in the café area for the next meeting

This has been assigned to the Facilities Manager, but he has been prioritising other items. This is also being discussed at the weekly Café meetings.

ACTION - Clerk to follow up with Facilities Manager regarding arranging options for displaying activities within the café area

- 24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to arrange for the 'user-friendly' agenda to be displayed

This has not yet been done.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange introduction of "user-friendly" agendas to be displayed on noticeboards



- 24/CYA/45.2 Clerk to draft a letter for Cllr Grimes to send to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Thames Valley Police Chief Constable (and copied to Yuan Yang, MP) requesting that more resource was needed, specifically a visible police presence in the community

This letter had been sent to the addressees on 16th December 2024, but no response had been received as yet.

ACTION – Clerk to chase for a response from PCC and Chief Constable to letter dated 16th December 2024

- 24/CYA/52.1 Clerk to draft a follow up to DfE asking for more specific information relating to the parish of Shinfield and not Wokingham as a whole

This was on the agenda at Item 4.2.

- 24/CYA/52.1 Clerk to arrange the required meeting with South Reading Borough Councillors

The meeting was held online on 3rd December with Cllrs Grimes, Matic and Montgomery and the Clerk attending for SPC.

- 24/CYA/52.2 Clerk to send the adopted policy to Yuan Yang, MP for Earley & Woodley

This had been done, and Cllr Grimes had also provided a briefing note to Yuan Yang for her meeting with the DfE.

- 24/CYA/52.3 Clerk to inform Oakbank school regarding the committee's decision on potential support for a mobile free school policy.

At the previous meeting there was support for the proposed concept, but members wished to be certain that the students would "buy into" such a proposal as without their general compliance it was felt the scheme would be unlikely to achieve the overall desired results. Members would like to see some form of vote by the student body. If this had a positive outcome, then members agreed in principle to match fund up to 50% of the cost. Shinfield United Charities had also expressed an interest in providing financial support. The school had been informed of this, and a response has been requested.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up Oakbank school's interest in the mobile pouch proposal

- 24/CYA/52.4 Clerk to write to primary schools within the parish to confirm their current policy towards mobile phones and ask their views on how best to manage the issue

This was on the agenda at Item 4.1.



24/CYA/52.5 Clerk to arrange the next Education Working Party meeting

This had been discussed earlier.

24/CYA/54.2 Clerk to progress ideas for the creation of a Young Councillors Working Party

This was on the agenda at Item 6.2.

24/CYA/54.3 Clerk to develop proposals for the use of the cinema equipment for youth club film evenings and gaming sessions

This was on the agenda at Item 6.3.

25/CYA/4

Education

4.1 Responses from Primary Schools regarding the use of mobile phones

Shinfield Infant and Nursery School had indicated that this was not an issue for them. For the other primary schools the general approach was to discourage devices to be brought to school and when they were, they were not allowed to be used inside school and would normally be handed to the class teacher.

Where pupils did not comply with this there could be problems with

- Conflict between children in chat
- Inappropriate images being included in chat
- Inviting unknown people into chats
- Children making noises or references to inappropriate content they have viewed.

During the process the Clerk had been advised of a not-for-profit organisation that provided a range of support options for schools and their parents about how they could work with children to ensure that they were equipped to use social media etc. in a safe manner.

It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with this provider to establish a potential offer of support to schools.

Any offer to schools should reflect the support of SPC and receive feedback from participants.

ACTION – Clerk to prepare a proposal for the next meeting setting out how SPC could offer additional social media safety training to schools within the parish

4.2 It was also suggested that SPC could make the same information available directly to interested parties via its own website and newsletter

ACTION – Clerk to include this in the discussions with the provider



4.3 **Other Education Matters**

The Clerk advised of a conversation with the Constituency Support Manager for Yuan Yang MP regarding discussions with the Regional Director for DfE regarding secondary schools within the constituency. Those discussions had been positive, and a further meeting had been scheduled for later in January.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up with Yuan Yang’s Constituency office after their next meeting with the DfE

4.4 **Shinfield St Mary’s Church of England Junior School**

Cllr Fernandes had been proposed as a governor of the school representing Shinfield Parish Council. This was scheduled to be discussed at a Governor’s meeting on 28th January.

ACTION – Cllr Fernandes to advise the outcome of the St Mary’s Governor’s meeting on 28th January

25/CYA/5

Anti-Social Behaviour

5.1 As noted earlier in the meeting, no response had been received to the letter sent to PCC and TVP Chief Constable on 16th December 2024.

The ASB online seminar arranged by Thames Valley Police on 13th January had been joined by Cllrs Grimes, Johnson, Montgomery & Peer and the Clerk.

This prompted a wider discussion on a previous proposal considered by Full Council in 2022 to provide a dedicated security provision for the parish. This would require a specific increase in the precept to cover the cost of any such provision. There was also discussion on whether this would be double charging residents as they were also paying for a Thames Valley Police precept. Part of the discussion was on how TVP could enhance the service they provide to residents.

There was a majority decision to refer the matter to Full Council to gauge interest in a potential programme to establish whether there was sufficient support for such an initiative amongst residents.

ACTION – Clerk to prepare a report for Full Council to consider options for enhanced security provision within the parish



25/CYA/6

Youth Matters

6.1 Youth Event

The Clerk had raised this with the Army Cadet Force on Remembrance Sunday. They would be interested in some form of participation but would need to be satisfied about safeguarding measures particularly when camping overnight.

It was noted that the original concept was to run the event at High Copse pavilion but the pitches there would not be available until September 2025 at the earliest.

It was agreed that a smaller activity based in the School Green Centre may be viable for 2025 to be held in the summer holiday period where space demands was less.

ACTION – Clerk to establish interest of local groups (ACF, Scouts and Guides) in participating in such an event

6.2 Young Councillors Working Party

The Clerk advised that this has not yet been progressed. He suggested that an initial step may be to address an assembly at Oakbank school. This would allow an opportunity to make students aware of the parish council but more importantly to gauge their views on subjects that were of interest to them.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the school with such a proposal.

ACTION – Clerk to ask Oakbank School to address a student's assembly to establish matters of interest to students

6.3 Engagement with children and young adults

The Shinfield Cinema was now operating, and the Clerk would now start to explore opportunities for other activities with children and young adults e.g. Gaming evenings or film screenings specifically for the youth club.

ACTION – Clerk to develop proposals for the use of the cinema equipment for youth club film evenings and gaming sessions

25/CYA/7

Meeting Schedule for 2025/26

7.1 Members agreed to retain the bi-monthly schedule of meetings (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov)

ACTION – Clerk to add to next Full Council agenda

25/CYA/8

Correspondence

8.1 Frensham Green trip to Hexagon

The Clerk advised members of a letter of thanks from WBC's Community Engagement Officer for the continuing support provided by SPC for the annual Frensham Green trip to the Hexagon theatre for the pantomime.

8.2 Additional Trips for residents of the parish

The letter opened a discussion on whether it could be possible to support and enable additional trips throughout the year open to more (or all) of the parish.

The Clerk was asked to explore options for a larger scale excursion to be run in the summer holidays open to all residents. For example this may be a trip to the seaside or a visitor attraction.

ACTION – Clerk to prepare proposals for the next meeting for a summer holiday coach excursion

25/CYA/9

Date of Next Meeting

9.1 The date of the next Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be 11th March 2025

The meeting ended at 21.45



List of Actions

24/CYA/35.2	Clerk to arrange the next Education Working Party meeting and invite representatives of Oakbank School and Swallowfield Parish Council to attend	Clerk
24/CYA/37.3	Clerk to request the Youth Club to design posters aimed at directing young people to websites relevant to them	Clerk
24/CYA/38.1	Clerk to follow up with Facilities Manager regarding arranging options for displaying activities within the café area	Clerk
24/CYA/38.1	Clerk to arrange introduction of "user-friendly" agendas to be displayed on noticeboards	Clerk
24/CYA/45.2	Clerk to chase for a response from PCC and Chief Constable to letter sent to them dated 16 th December 2024	Clerk
24/CYA/52.3	Clerk to follow up Oakbank school's interest in the mobile pouch proposal	Clerk
25/CYA/4.1	Clerk to prepare a proposal for the next meeting setting out how SPC could offer additional social media safety training to primary schools within the parish	Clerk
25/CYA/4.2	Clerk to include SPC providing similar information as for 4.1 directly to interested parents/guardians in the discussions with the provider	Clerk
25/CYA/4.3	Clerk to follow up with Yuan Yang's Constituency office after their next meeting with the DfE	Clerk
25/CYA/4.4	Cllr Fernandes to advise the outcome of the St Mary's Governor's meeting on 28 th January	Cllr Fernandes
25/CYA/5.1	Clerk to prepare a report for Full Council to consider options for enhanced security provision within the parish	Clerk
25/CYA/6.1	Clerk to establish interest of local groups (ACF, Scouts and Guides) in participating in a "Sleep Out" event in 2025	Clerk
25/CYA/6.2	Clerk to ask Oakbank School for permission for SPC to address a students' assembly to establish matters of interest to students	Clerk
25/CYA/6.3	Clerk to develop proposals for the use of the cinema equipment for youth club film evenings and gaming sessions	Clerk
25/CYA/7.1	Clerk to add the committee's decision on future meeting schedule to the next Full Council agenda	Clerk
25/CYA/8.2	Clerk to prepare proposals for the next meeting for a summer holiday coach excursion	Clerk