

Minutes of a meeting of
Children and Young Adults Committee
Held on Tuesday 7th May 2024
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Fernandes, Grimes, Johnson & Montgomery (Chair)

Attending: B Winton (Clerk)

24/CYA/20

Public Questions

20.1 There were no public questions

24/CYA/21

Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

21.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Matic & Tatla

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

21.2 There were no declarations of members' interests

24/CYA/22

Minutes of the previous meeting

22.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

Proposed: Cllr Fernandes

Seconded: Cllr Grimes

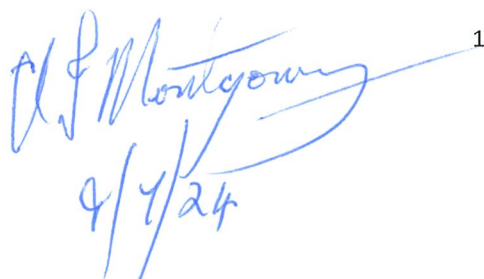
Approved: Unanimously

22.2 Matters arising from the minutes

24/CYA/14.1 Clerk to send the letter to DfE on behalf of Shinfield Parish Council

This had been done although there has been no acknowledgement or response. The Clerk had followed up and he was asked to do so again.

ACTION – Clerk to write again to DfE Regional Director


4/7/24

24/CYA/14.2 Clerk to implement the revised agenda approach for the May meeting

This was on the agenda at Item 8.1

24/CYA/14.2 Clerk to work with new café operator when appointed regarding use of "table toppers"

This will be introduced once the initial opening period for the café has settled down

ACTION – Clerk to follow up SPC messaging on tables in the School Green Cafe

24/CYA/17.2 Clerk to develop proposals for a youth event

This was on the agenda at Item 7.2

24/CYA/18.1 Clerk to draft and circulate questions in relation to WBC's Education Strategy

This was done and questions submitted to WBC. The response from BCllr Andrew Mickleburgh had been circulated. It was noted that BCllr Mickleburgh's respond had suggested that Wokingham Borough Council had a preference for the expansion of Alder Grove primary school but more recent information from BCllr Glover indicated that a new school at Spencers Wood seemed to be more likely.

ACTION – Clerk to ensure that future plans for Primary Schools in the parish are followed up at the next meeting of the Education Working Party involving WBC members and officers

24/CYA/23

Education

23.1 Oakbank School

At Full Council a member of the public had raised concerns regarding Cllr Hoyle's comments on Facebook in relation to the current issues at Oakbank School. The Chairman of the Council had explained that this was not the stance of Shinfield Parish Council and Cllr Hoyle was writing as an individual. The member of public felt that the comments were detrimental to the school, teaching staff, pupils and parents.

The Chairman also reported that an update had been given to parents, by the school, before the Easter holidays referring to the post-Ofsted action plan. The acting Headteacher had stated "I can firmly say that the Trust will continue in their commitment to the school and offering the consistency in the systems that we have set up in the last few months."

The Chairman gave reassurance that SPC were fully supportive of the school and the Clerk had responded to Oakbank School with a detailed response.



It was noted that the previous Head Teacher was no longer with the school and that the Acting Head Teacher would be leaving at the end of the academic year and there was concern regarding the potential impact of these changes on the school's post-Ofsted action plan. The Clerk would include these in the letter to the DfE.

The school's concerns regarding social media comments also appeared to have caused a delay in Cllr Tatla joining the school's community council.

23.2 Education Working Party

Once it was confirmed which BCllr would be the Executive Member for Children's Services for Wokingham Borough Council another meeting of the Education Working Party would be arranged.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange the next meeting of Education Working Party

24/CYA/24

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 24.1 The Facilities Manager had received an update from TV Police who have been following up the damage to the shutter at Spencers Wood Pavilion. The CCTV cameras had enabled identification of the youth involved and a voluntary interview had been conducted by the police. A report would now be made to the youth justice team and SPC will be advised accordingly.

The Clerk also advised that there has been a spate of vandalism on bus shelters on Fullbrook Avenue. The Grounds Maintenance Officer had cleared up broken glass on three occasions for expediency.

24/CYA/25

Young Councillors

- 25.1 At the last meeting we discussed launching this in November in the SPC Newsletter and by contacting groups directly such as: Oakbank School, Scouts, Guides, ACF cadet force. These communications could be initiated in September at the start of the new school year utilising the new cinema facility as a draw (e.g. invite potential interested parties for a discussion and then show a movie). It was confirmed that membership would also include students who attend schools other than Oakbank. There were also potential links into the Natural History Museum Engagement working party through Cllr Fernandes.

24/CYA/26

Youth Club & Youth Services

26.1 Youth Club

This continued to be a very positive story. The Tower Room had been used while work was taking place in the café area, but the space was not suitable. Therefore future sessions of the Youth Club would be in the café area (which has been agreed with Crumbs Coffee) or the Grazeley Room depending on the Youth Club's needs and other bookings.

26.2 **Shinfield North**

Cllr Montgomery advised that he and Cllr Tatla had met with the Curate at St Barnabus church regarding activities which had been moved out of the Frensham Green flat. Cllr Montgomery had been asked if there was any financial help available from the council and he had informed the church of the Annual Grant Scheme. It was suggested that there would be benefit in establishing if there was also funding available from Reading Borough Council given the church's location. Cllr Montgomery indicated that he may have a possible contact.

ACTION – Cllr Montgomery to follow up with contact regarding potential joint financial support for activities at St Barnabas church

26.3 **Youth Event**

It had been suggested at the last meeting that consideration be given to a possible adventure weekend for young adults camping out at a location within the parish involving University of Reading, youth organisations and sports clubs. The youth organisations and clubs (e.g. Guides/Scouts/Football Clubs/Army Cadets/Cricket Club/schools and SPC Youth Club).

The Clerk suggested that this might be tied in with the formal opening of High Copse pavilion (most likely in Spring 2025). High Copse would be an ideal base for such an event as it would have

- kitchen facilities for provision of an evening meal and breakfast the following morning
- toilet facilities including disabled and potentially using changing room toilets for separate groups
- sufficient space to accommodate various groups camping out and activities for participants
- sufficient space for parking/drop off for participants

Cllr Johnson suggested to start the process by making contact to one or two of these groups to establish potential interest. He also suggested that geo-caching might be an interesting addition to potential activities. Cllr Grimes suggested that some competitive elements could also be included between the groups.

ACTION – Clerk to keep youth event on the agenda for future meetings

24/CYA/27**User Friendly Agenda and Paperwork**

- 27.1 The Clerk had included with the papers for the meeting an alternative style agenda intended to be more user-friendly for the general public. It was felt that there was still too much information and the message needed to be shorter and punchier and the presentation to be more eye-catching. It was suggested that these could be included on the screen in Reception and the coffee shop menus.

ACTION – Clerk to circulate revised version of user-friendly agenda to members of the committee

24/CYA/28**Correspondence**

- 28.1 There was no correspondence for the committee.
- 28.2 There was a discussion on how footpath and cycle path maps in the parish could be modified to make them easier for people to use e.g. time to destinations, colour coded routes. This would have the potential to reduce traffic and make it easier for children and young adults to attend activities etc in a safe manner.

24/CYA/29**Date of Next Meeting**

- 29.1 The date of the next Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be 9th July 2024

The meeting ended at 21.00

List of Actions

24/CYA/14.1	Clerk to write again to DfE Regional Director	Clerk
24/CYA/14.2	Clerk to follow up SPC messaging on tables in the School Green Café	Clerk
24/CYA/18.1	Clerk to ensure that future plans for Primary Schools in the parish are followed up at the next meeting of the Education Working Party involving WBC members and officers	Clerk
24/CYA/23.2	Clerk to arrange the next meeting of Education Working Party	Clerk
24/CYA/26.2	Cllr Montgomery to follow up with contact regarding potential joint financial support for activities at St Barnabas church	Cllr Montgomery
24/CYA/26.3	Clerk to keep youth event on the agenda for future meetings	Clerk
24/CYA/27.1	Clerk to circulate revised version of user-friendly agenda to members of the committee	Clerk

