

Minutes of a meeting of
Children and Young Adults Committee
Held on Tuesday 5th November 2024
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Fernandes, Grimes and Montgomery (Chair)

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

24/CYA/49 Public Questions

49.1 There were no public questions

24/CYA/50 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

50.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Johnson, Matic & Tatla

50.2 There were no declarations of members' interests

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

24/CYA/51 Minutes of the previous meeting

51.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

Proposed: Cllr Grimes
Seconded: Cllr Fernandes
Approved: Unanimously

51.2 Matters arising from the minutes

24/CYA/35.2 Clerk to invite a representative of Oakbank School to the Education Working Party

There has not been an Education Working Party meeting since the last meeting.

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


14/2/25

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

The Clerk intended to raise this on Sunday after the Remembrance Parade.

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

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

This had not yet been done.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange signage around the Parish with QR codes to direct Youths to local groups

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

This would be assigned to the Facilities Manager

ACTION - Clerk to task Facilities Manager with 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 been done as yet.

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

24/CYA/39.1 Cllr Grimes to write to the governors prior to the meeting to request that SPC be represented on the new trust

This had been done and Cllr Fernandes would represent SPC on the board of governors for St Mary's Church of England Junior School.

24/CYA/44.1 Clerk to follow up with Yuan Yang, MP for an update from the DfE on secondary education in the parish

This was on the agenda.

24/CYA/44.2 Clerk to request WBC to state on planning application 241861/2 that they had no intention of selling the land to the north of the site or not expanding the school in the future

This land had since been sold at auction.



24/CYA/44.2 Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Education Working Party

This was on the agenda.

24/CYA/45.2 Cllr Johnson to speak to the Chief Inspector at the Lower Earley Police Station regarding theft at the Co-op

This had been discussed at Full Council.

24/CYA/45.2 Cllr Johnson to write to the Co-op to ask how they were dealing with the situation

This had been discussed at Full Council.

24/CYA/45.2 Clerk to draft a letter for Cllr Grimes to send to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Inspector, Chief Constable, Borough Commander, Press and Yuan Yang, MP requesting that more resource was needed, specifically a visible police presence in the community

The Clerk had not yet drafted this letter.

ACTION – Clerk to draft the letter

24/CYA/47.1 Clerk to liaise with Earley Town Council on promoting Youth Events being held in both areas

This had been done and we would look for opportunities to work together.

24/CYA/52

Education

52.1 Oakbank School

The committee considered the response received from the Regional Director of the Department for Education (DfE) dated 31st October 2024. There was disappointment at the lack of detail provided in that response and that it did not address the specific issues relating to the parish or indeed recognise that the local area (including South of Reading) has three schools that are not performing at the required standard.

ACTION – Clerk to draft a response asking for more specific information relating to the parish of Shinfield and not Wokingham as a whole

ACTION – Clerk to arrange the required meeting with South Reading Borough Councillors



52.2 **Draft Education Policy for the Council**

Further amendments were discussed and made to the draft document which was then formally adopted.

Proposed: Cllr Grimes
Seconded: Cllr Fernandes
Approved: Unanimously

ACTION – Clerk to send the adopted policy to Yuan Yuan, MP for Earley & Woodley

52.3 **Mobile Free School**

There was support for the 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.

Proposed: Cllr Montgomery
Seconded: Cllr Fernandes
Approved: Unanimously

ACTION – Clerk to inform the school accordingly

52.4 **Education Matters in the Parish**

Following the previous item there was a discussion regarding mobile phones in primary schools and the Clerk was asked to ascertain the current policies of schools in the parish with regards to mobile phones and if there were any thoughts on how best to manage the issue.

ACTION – 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

52.5 **Education Working Party**

The Clerk was asked to arrange the next meeting of the Working Party

ACTION – Clerk to arrange the next Education Working Party meeting



52.6 **Assets of Community Value**

It was noted that the site on Hyde End Lane earmarked for a second phase of any new primary school for Spencers Wood had been sold. The Clerk had requested that Wokingham still conclude the application to have the land considered as an Asset of Community Value. The Clerk was also asked to include the land adjacent to Alder Grove school on the list of locations to be covered as Asset of Community Value.

24/CYA/53

Anti-Social Behaviour

53.1 Update on anti-social behaviour issues within the Parish

There was nothing to add to the discussion held at Full Council on 23rd October 2024.

24/CYA/54

Youth Matters

54.1 **Youth Event**

It was noted that High Copse was expected to be handed over to SPC in mid-November.

54.2 **Young Councillors Working Party**

The Clerk had not yet been able to progress this item.

ACTION – Clerk to progress ideas for the creation of a Young Councillors Working Party

54.3 **Engagement with children and young adults**

The Shinfield Cinema was now operating and once this element had bedded in the Clerk would then 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

24/CYA/55

Correspondence

55.1 There was no correspondence for discussion

24/CYA/56

Date of Next Meeting

56.1 The date of the next Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be 13th January 2025

The meeting ended at _____



List of Actions

35.2	Clerk to invite representatives of Oakbank School and Swallowfield Parish Council to the next Education Working Party meeting	Clerk
37.2	Clerk to contact the Army Cadet Force (ACF) to see if they would be interested in participating in an event in 2025	Clerk
37.3	Clerk to arrange signage around the Parish with QR codes to direct Youths to local groups	Clerk
38.1	Clerk to task Facilities Manager with arranging options for displaying activities within the café area	Clerk
38.1	Clerk to arrange introduction of "user-friendly" agendas to be displayed on noticeboards	Clerk
45.2	Clerk to draft a letter for Cllr Grimes to send to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Inspector, Chief Constable, Borough Commander, Press and Yuan Yang, MP requesting that more resource was needed, specifically a visible police presence in the community	Clerk
52.1	Clerk to draft a response asking for more specific information relating to the parish of Shinfield and not Wokingham as a whole	Clerk
52.1	Clerk to arrange the required meeting with South Reading Borough Councillors	Clerk
52.2	Clerk to send the adopted policy to Yuan Yang, MP for Earley & Woodley	Clerk
52.3	Clerk to inform Oakbank School of the committee's decision regarding mobile phone pouches	Clerk
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	Clerk
52.5	Clerk to arrange the next Education Working Party meeting	Clerk
54.2	Clerk to progress ideas for the creation of a Young Councillors Working Party	Clerk
54.3	Clerk to develop proposals for the use of the cinema equipment for youth club film evenings and gaming sessions	Clerk

