

Minutes of a meeting of
Children and Young Adults Committee
Held on Thursday 5th February 2026
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Bowler, Matic and Montgomery

Attending: Cllr Rance
B Winton, Clerk
Rachel Walker, SPC Youth Club
Nicky Bray, SPC Youth Club

26/CYA/1 Public Questions

- 1.1 There were no public questions.

26/CYA/2 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Approval of apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Johnson & Pollock.
- 2.2 Members' declarations of interest

There were no declarations of members' interests.

26/CYA/3 Youth Matters

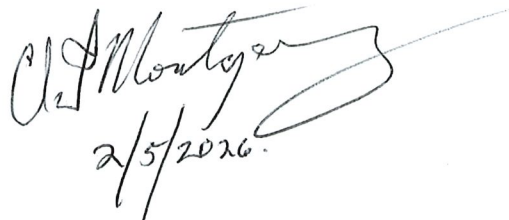
- 3.1 The development of the role profile for the Youth Worker role approved by Full Council

The committee gave Rachel Walker and Nicky Bray the opportunity to discuss the current youth club and the rationale for the teenage youth work role. Teenagers have little in the way of leisure opportunity within the parish and would also benefit from consistent faces to help them.

There was a discussion on the draft role profile. Rachel Walker emphasised the need for consistency in the workers who engaged with young people and the benefit of giving that group opportunities to develop.

The Clerk advised that the Police & Crime Commissioner currently had a grant scheme open for potential equipment to support the new role and he would make an application for that.

ACTION – Clerk to apply to the Police and Crime Commissioner Grant Scheme


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There was a discussion on how else the current youth club could be supported and the items identified were an iPad and access to Edukey for more secure record keeping and access to additional training.

ACTION – Clerk to source an iPad for Youth Club

ACTION – Clerk to discuss additional training for Youth Club team

3.2 Potential future development of the existing youth club

Additional equipment would always be welcome for the current Youth Club, but it was recognised that storage at School Green Centre was always a challenge. Items discussed were pool table, dart board and table tennis.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate what equipment for the Youth Club might be possible

Rachel Walker and Nicky Bray left the Meeting

3.3 Development of Youth Council

It was agreed that further discussion on this would be deferred until such time as the teenage youth workers and the Community Engagement & Events Officer were in place.

ACTION – Clerk to place on the Agenda for the meeting on 26th November 2026

3.4 Potential for a Duke of Edinburgh scheme for the parish

The Deputy Clerk was investigating SPC membership to Berkshire Youth Organisation as a possible route to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme as they run a virtual scheme. According to the BYO website "This provides a young person the flexibility to engage to suit their lifestyle, resources and time. It also provides the opportunity for young people to participate in the scheme if their school has reached capacity."

Members however still wished to explore a directly delivered route for young adults in the parish.

ACTION – Clerk to continue to investigate options for delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

3.5 Options for youth mentoring

It was agreed that this would be covered by the teenage youth worker role.

ACTION – Clerk to include in the role profile for youth workers

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2/5/2026

- 3.6 How to establish an alliance between schools, museums, Shinfield Studios and other organisation to support education and employment opportunities for young adults in the Parish.

Potential membership of such a group was discussed and the following were identified:

- Oakbank Secondary (and other secondary schools)
- Shinfield Studios
- Museums
- UoR and Reading College
- Education Business Partnership (who do our work placements)
- Local Businesses

ACTION – Clerk to develop overall brief for such a working party

- 3.7 How to engage more with children and young adult

There was nothing to add to the conversations already noted.

26/CYA/4

Minutes of the previous meeting

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Matic
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
Approved: Unanimously

- 4.2 Matters arising from the minutes

25/CYA/31.2

- 24/CYA/37.3 Clerk to request the Youth Club to design posters aimed at directing young people to websites relevant to them

The Clerk had made the request but had not managed to deliver on this yet.

ACTION - Clerk to request the Youth Club to design posters aimed at directing young people to websites relevant to them

- 24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to arrange installation of the touchscreen device for the café

This had not yet been installed.

ACTION - Clerk to arrange installation of the touchscreen device for the café


2/5/2026

- 24/CYA/38.1 Clerk to arrange "user-friendly" agenda to be posted alongside the formal agenda for the next meeting

This had been attempted for the November 2025 meeting but had not resulted in any additional comments or attendees.

It was agreed to defer any further conversation on alternative approaches until the Community Engagement & Events Officer had been recruited.

ACTION – Clerk to add "user-friendly" agenda discussion to the agenda for the 26th November 2026 committee meeting

- 25/CYA/13.1 Clerk to provide an update at the next meeting on equipment for streaming meetings

The software licence and training were included in the budget approved by Full Council in January and the equipment would be recommended to Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in February.

ACTION - Clerk to add capital equipment to agenda of Finance & General Purposes Committee in February 2026

- 25/CYA/15.1 Clerk to add to the agenda for the February Meetings of both Children and Young Adults and Arts, Culture and Events committees for a Beating of the Bounds type event

It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda for the next ACE meeting in March 2026.

ACTION – Clerk to add "Beating of the Bounds" style event to the agenda for the ACE Meeting in March 2026

- 25/CYA/15.2 Clerk to arrange a meeting with students of Oakbank School, to discuss a Young Councillors Working Party

This would be on the agenda for the meeting with the Headteacher of Oakbank Secondary School on 12th February

ACTION – Chair of the Committee and the Clerk to report back to members at the next CYA committee meeting

- 25/CYA/15.2 Clerk to note for next discussion with Oakbank School – screen a film version of any set plays or books

As for the previous item.

- 25/CYA/26.4 Clerk to note for next discussion with Oakbank School – regarding creating a Youth Council

As for the previous item.

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2/5/2026

25/CYA/33.2 Clerk to add to agenda for next Education Working Party – charges for access to the leisure centre for Oakbank School

This had been done.

25/CYA/34.2 Clerk to note for next discussion with Oakbank School – presentation by Clerk on matters of interest to students at Oakbank

As for item 25/CYA/15.2

25/CYA/34.3 Clerk to investigate the requirement for Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Covered above

25/CYA/35.1 Members to consider if they felt they needed to add to the list of councillors on the committee

Added Cllr Pollock and potentially Cllr Rance

25/CYA/35.2 Clerk to register Cllr Peer and himself for the Future Leaders; Attracting young talent to parish and town councils” on 25th February 2026

This had been done.

26/CYA/5

Education

5.1 An update on the change of trust for Oakbank

The Chair of the Committee and the Clerk would be meeting the new Head Teacher (Mr Rob Gerrard) at Oakbank on 12th February to discuss items including:

- Use of facilities
 - Cinema, NT Live etc
 - Sports facilities.
- Establishment of a Youth Council
- Board of Governors
- Youth Support Staff
- Advocating for Oakbank School

5.2 An update on the planned primary school for Spencer’s Wood

The Clerk advised that:

- WBC put out to tender via governments find tender service in April 2025 value up to £8m with contract running May 2026 to April 2028
- Planning permission in June 2025
- AT the Education Working Party Meeting on 7th January Prue Bray advised that the school was in the proposed budgets for approval


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5.3 An update from the Education Working Party meeting held on 7th January 2026

Meeting on Teams on 7th January

- Cllr Hoyle, Clerk and Deputy Clerk for SPC (Cllr Montgomery was away)
- Prue Bray, Oliver Gill, Gillian Cole - WBC
- Representative from Swallowfield Parish Council
- Member of public who had a child at Oakbank School

Oakbank

- New head started in Jan and was very experienced within GLT
- CEO Will Smith attended WBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January
- Extra provisions being made for Years 10 & 11
- Year 7 residential trip had been held
- All students were in uniform
- Positive feedback from everyone "All is calm," "clear on where trust is going"
- Cllr Hoyle asked about next year applications – BCllr Bray advised that WBC were not expecting significant turnaround until there is a new Ofsted, but GLT knew what they were signing up for
- £3.7m of Capital has been made available to the school but that would not go far given the work required at the school
- BCllr Bray has raised costs of accessing Ryeish Sports Hub with Places Leisure

Primary School

- As per previous item

LGV Secondary School

- There was a discussion about the proposed new secondary school in the development but there were no definitive decisions.

UPM
2/8/2026

- 5.4 A report from the Chair and Clerk regarding meeting with St Mary's Junior School.

There had been a very positive meeting with Darren Gray (CEO of Agape) and Philippa Healy (Head Teacher)

Items discussed included:

- Using Millworth Lane as overflow car parking for large school events – This could be accommodated if the school request in advance
- Online Safety training – The school would be interested in this if SPC revived their previous proposal
- Volunteers – The school was always looking for more help
- Langley Mead Path – the new path was flooding a lot and SPC offered to raise the issue with the University of Reading

26/CYA/6

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 6.1 Update on Anti-Social behaviour within the Parish

There were no new ASB incidents to report

26/CYA/7

Correspondence

- 7.1 Membership of CYA

Cllr Pollock had requested to join the committee.

Cllr Rance confirmed that she would also like to join the committee.

26/CYA/8

Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The date of the next Children and Young Adults Committee meeting will be 2nd April 2026

The meeting ended at 21.00

CLM
2/5/2026

List of Actions

26/CYA/3.1	➤ Clerk to apply to the Police and Crime Commissioner Grant Scheme	Clerk
	➤ Clerk to source an iPad for Youth Club	Clerk
	➤ Clerk to discuss additional training for Youth Club team	Clerk
26/CYA/3.2	Clerk to investigate what equipment for the Youth Club might be possible	Clerk
26/CYA/3.3	Clerk to place the Development of a Youth Council on the Agenda for the meeting on 26 th November 2026	Clerk
26/CYA/3.4	Clerk to continue to investigate options for delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Scheme	Clerk
26/CYA/3.5	Clerk to include youth mentoring in the role profile for youth workers	Clerk
26/CYA/3.6	Clerk to develop overall brief for working party to establish an alliance between schools, museums, Shinfield Studios and other organisations	Clerk
26/CYA/4		
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 arrange installation of the touchscreen device for the café	Clerk
24/CYA/38.1	Clerk to add “user-friendly” agenda discussion to the agenda for the 26 th November 2026 committee meeting	Clerk
25/CYA/13.1	Clerk to add capital equipment to agenda of Finance & General Purposes Committee in February 2026	Clerk
25/CYA/15.1	Clerk to add “Beating of the Bounds” style event to the agenda for the ACE Meeting in March 2026	Clerk
25/CYA/15.2	Chair of the Committee and the Clerk to report back to members on the meeting with the Headteacher of Oakbank Secondary School arranged for 12 th February	Clerk

CLM.
2/5/26