



Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2000 at 4.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT:-

Nina Costigan (Chair)	Thomas Keble
Stewart McKane (Vice Chair)	Katharine Lady Berkeley's
Dan Snell	Marling
Marcus Angell	Marling
Juzer Esmailji	Marling
Francesca Lane	Stroud High
Katy Costigan	Thomas Keble

Also Present:-

David Marshall	Information Officer, Stroud District Council
Phil Sullivan	Community Safety Officer, Stroud District Council
Fred Chance	Stroud Team Leader, Youth and Community Service

Apologies:-

Cllr R Eccles	Chair, Stroud District Council
Niko Mustofic	Rednock School (<i>new member</i>)

<u>Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2000</u>	Accepted as a correct record.
<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u>	
- <u>Stroud Substance Action Group</u>	Phil Sullivan explained that attendance had been low at their last Group meeting and the programming of future meetings had therefore been postponed. The next meeting had been agreed for 2 p.m. on 14 November 2000 and if any Youth Council member wanted to attend they were asked to contact him.

<p><u>- Neighbourhood Watch Association</u></p>	<p>Three of the schools represented, Thomas Keble, Marling and Stroud High, were interested in contact from the Association about youth co-ordinators on crime prevention issues.</p> <p>Phil Sullivan agreed to pass the information to the NWA.</p>
<p><u>- High Sheriff's Fund</u></p>	<p>No proposals were put forward at the meeting; Phil Sullivan would be the contact if any came forward later.</p>
<p><u>- Stroud District Secondary School Drug Framework</u></p>	<p>Phil Sullivan stated that he had now contacted all the Heads of the Schools and the members present confirmed that information was being circulated within the schools.</p>
<p><u>- Age Concern – 'Message in a Bottle' Scheme</u></p>	<p>Exact details of the scheme were expected shortly and Phil Sullivan could be contacted if any member knew of a person likely to benefit from the scheme.</p>
<p><u>- Save the Children Fund/National Youth Agency</u></p>	<p>Fred Chance had requested details of the events which were being held to promote young peoples' involvement in decision making. He understood that one was due to take place in Taunton on 2 December 2000; he would make available further information as soon as it was received.</p>
<p><u>Grant from Stroud District Council</u></p>	<p>During the discussion it was generally agreed that a combined proposal, rather than separate ones from individual schools, would be a more effective use of the fund.</p> <p>One member commented that a meeting area for young people was being suggested for Nailsworth and that support was being sought; Fred Chance understood that Nailsworth Town Council was involved in pursuing this idea. It was agreed that further information would be obtained.</p> <p>Another suggestion by Fred Chance was to organise a youth conference for young people in the District. The opportunity to meet others and exchange views might be beneficial to the work of the Youth Council.</p> <p>David Marshall and Fred Chance put forward a proposal for a Youth Worker to provide support for the Youth Council, the cost of which could be split between the grant and funds available to Fred Chance.</p> <p>From members comments it was recognised that the falling attendance at Youth Council meetings was a problem, particularly in maintaining continuity of contact and taking decisions. If the opportunity to 'shadow' the District Council Cabinet was taken, support could be even more vital.</p>

	<p>Fred Chance outlined how he felt the support could work, probably for 2 ½ hours each week; he anticipated the cost would be about £1,000 for a year. He also commented that if a contact point was provided on a regular basis, there was likely to be more involvement of members between meetings and the need for formal meetings might be reduced.</p> <p>Fred Chance offered to manage the appointment process.</p> <p>It was agreed that the proposal should be supported and that Fred Chance, David Marshall and members should meet informally to agree the job description for advertising by Wed 8 November.</p> <p>(Note: the date of the informal meeting was set for 16 October but, as time was available, the discussion subsequently took place at the conclusion of this meeting).</p>
<p><u>Youth 'Shadow Cabinet'</u></p>	<p>David Marshall explained his discussions with the Leader of the District Council, Cllr Mrs Nolder, and that a proposal was being put forward to Cabinet members at their meeting this week on a 'Shadow' Youth Cabinet. He outlined the service areas for which each Cabinet member was responsible; involving young people in meetings of the Cabinet, where their views would be heard, was a radical step forward which the Leader was keen to promote.</p> <p>If the proposal was supported by the Cabinet members, he would undertake to contact all the Youth Council members and every school to explain its importance and 'elections' to the 'Shadow' Cabinet could take place at the Youth Council's next meeting.</p> <p>The information was noted and supported.</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	
<p><u>Crimestoppers</u></p>	<p>Phil Sullivan explained how Crimestoppers operated and particularly the anonymity afforded to those with information. In an effort to raise awareness of the scheme, the Police were circulating posters and leaflets and he gave copies to the members present.</p> <p>If other schools wanted copies he would be happy to supply them.</p>
<p><u>Visit to Parliament</u></p>	<p>Fred Chance had arranged with the local M.P., David Drew, to take a party of young people to visit Parliament during Youth Week; the theme for this week was 'Young Peoples' Influence on Democracy'.</p> <p>The visit would be on 30 October and he offered places to the Youth Council. He also suggested that the visit could</p>

	<p>be an opportunity to publicise the Youth Council's work and that a support worker was being recruited.</p> <p>The places were accepted.</p>
<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	<p>The next meeting was arranged for Monday, 4 December 2000 at 4.30 pm. It would be held in the Committee Room at Ebley Mill and a small buffet would be provided.</p> <p>(Note: this meeting was subsequently re-arranged to Monday 8 January 2001).</p>

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