



## **STROUD DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2002, at 4:30 pm in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud.

### **MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Marcus Angell (Chair)	Marling
Dan Snell	Marling
Euan Howard	Rednock
Nico Mustafic	Rednock
Katy Dainton	Stroud High School
Catherine Jones	Stroud High School
Menna Jenkins	Thomas Keble
Daniel Flack	Thomas Keble
Samantha Williams	Maidenhill
Rebecca Saynor	Maidenhill
Jemma Grieve	Katharine Lady Berkeley's

### **Also Present:**

David Marshall	Public Relations Officer, Stroud District Council.
Debbie Lang	Stroud Team Leader, Youth and Community Service.
Councillor Mike Beard	Vice Chair of Stroud District Council and Chair of Development Control Committee.

#### **1 Apologies:**

Sophie Mitchell, Katherine Lady Berkeley's.  
Archway and Berkeley Vale schools which had not appointed members to the Youth Council as yet.  
Steve Miles, Youth and Community Service.

#### **2 Introductions:**

Members, old and new, introduced themselves, and Councillor Mike Beard was introduced by Dave Marshall.

### 3 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 2002 were accepted as a correct record.

### 4 Matters Arising:

Marcus Angell (Chair) expressed concern about the number of requests granted at the last meeting at which only four Youth Council members were present. He suggested that it might be a good idea to have a rule requiring a minimum number of members to be present for requests to be granted.

Debbie Lang, present at the last meeting, explained that since a number of non-members had made the effort to attend the meeting to present their requests it was deemed more appropriate to deal with those requests at the time rather than leaving them to a later date.

Dave Marshall said that although a rule could require, say, six members to be present in order for requests to be granted, it was important that members should make every effort to attend meetings since the dates were now being posted well in advance, or for apologies to be sent as early as possible. This would enable potentially poorly attended meetings to be cancelled or rescheduled sooner.

With regard to academic commitments affecting attendance, Debbie suggested having specified dates when funding meetings would be held, to ensure as many members as possible could be present to make these important decisions. From the point of view of requests emerging from unforeseen circumstances and therefore missing these funding meetings, it was suggested that requests for less than, say, £500 could be dealt with at any Youth Council meeting throughout the year.

The motion that at least six members with voting power must be in attendance for requests to be passed was proposed by Marcus Angell and seconded by Dan Snell.

**AGREED: It was agreed that at least six members of the Stroud District Youth Council with voting power must be in attendance for requests to be granted.**

### 5 Agenda item 5: Development of the Youth Council

Marcus gave a brief explanation of the function of the Youth Council. Dave Marshall added an explanation of the unique power of Stroud District Youth Council: that they can have a direct influence on motions by attending full council meetings themselves. He commended the councillors for their initiative in allowing young people attend their meetings.

Dave Marshall suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair positions of the Youth Council be confirmed at the next meeting.

Debbie Lang proposed a weekend away to make plans for the future of the council, whilst spending time getting to know each other and relaxing. She suggested several dates and venues.

Dave Marshall assured the Youth Council members that there would be no cost to them for the weekend away.

## **6 Agenda item 6: Timetable of Future Meetings**

A copy of the timetable of future meetings was given to each member.

Dave Marshall asserted that meetings could be held between these set dates if members wished to organise them.

Marcus Angell commented that the six-week period between meetings was be preferable to the four-week interval between meetings last year, since he felt these had been too frequent.

Debbie requested that some meetings be on different days of the week since Steve Miles would find Mondays difficult.

## **7 Agenda item 7: Report back from Germany visits (July 2002)**

Of those present Debbie Lang, Jemma Grieve and Dave Marshall had been on one or both of the trips.

The trips were reported to have been a success and the possibility of forming a two-way exchange was discussed, since a German group has expressed an interest in visiting Stroud.

## **8 Agenda item 8: Local Democracy Week 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Dave Marshall explained this is a nationwide council campaign held every year to encourage more people to vote in Local Council Elections. Dave spoke of the possibility that members of the Youth Council may be asked to take part in a publicity event held at Ebley Mill. However, dates for such an event were not yet confirmed.

Debbie Lang described activities of the Gloucester County Youth Council in relation to distributing ballot boxes around the area. She suggested SYC could carry out a similar project. She also suggested the possibility that two members of the SYC could also stand on the County Youth Council.

## **9 Youth Council Website**

Marcus informed the council that the website (created by Juzer Esmailji) was complete and ready to upload. At the request of other members, Marcus agreed to give a demonstration of the website at the next meeting.

Dave stated that the website would be more effective if photos of the council were on it, and requested that, unless an individual or their parents objected, photos could be brought to the next meeting for this purpose.

## **10 Photos**

Photographs of members of the Council will be taken at the next meeting, for a record of the members, even if individuals request them to be omitted from the web.

**11 Any Other Business**

In answer to a member's question about the status of the skateboard park, it was confirmed that the park was being resurfaced and should be ready for use shortly.

Debbie Lang queried the continuation of the video about the Youth Council, and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed after the weekend away.

Dave Marshall informed the Council that petrol and taxi money used for attending Youth Council meetings could be claimed back from the Council and that there would be mileage forms available for collection at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

**11 Date of next meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2002 at 4:30pm in Council Chamber, Ebley Mill.

The meeting closed at 5:30 pm.