



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Witney Youth Council held at 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney on Tuesday 9th December 2025.

Youth Councillors Present:

Six Youth Councillors

Witney Town Council Mentors Present:

Cllr G Meadows

Witney Town Council Officers Present:

A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communications and Engagement

P Inness – Communications and Community Engagement Officer

The Councillors in attendance were Youth Council mentors and were there to guide and answer questions. Officers advised Members this was their opportunity to provide a voice for young people in Witney, and the Town Council would try and bring about their ideas and suggestions.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from two youth councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Youth Councillors were advised that if any knew anyone or had any involvement in any of the items being discussed at the meeting, they should say it at this point.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Youth Council Roles

Members voted on which Youth Council Member should be assigned to the following roles for the forthcoming Youth Council year.

Emails will follow for more information on assigned roles.

4. Updates on the House of Commons Visit

The Youth Council Admin Assistant provided a verbal update that the Youth Council was still waiting on MP Charlie Maynard's response.

5. Cultural Foods in Witney Event (A Taste of Witney ??)

Youth Councillors thought more about the details of the event and answered the following questions:

What:

- Will every restaurant have a table or one shared table with different sections? **Every restaurant involved would have their own table.**

- Will it be outside or inside? (What will you do if it is a stormy day?) **We will book the main hall just in case it rains, but it would be preferable to be outside the Corn Exchange.**
- Will you charge per try or will you charge an entrance fee? **It would be nice if it were free as young people may not have enough money to visit. We can have a table for fundraising and donations which will be monitored.**
- Could it be completely free and you accept donations? **Yes.**
- Will there be seating? **No, this will keep people flowing through the tables and will stop overcrowding.**
- Should the event be themed (e.g., international cuisines) or open to all local food businesses? **Open to all local food businesses as we can get more reach and have all cultures involved.**
- What is the plan if a restaurant cancels last minute? **We can have pre-bought cakes to sell just in case we have empty tables.**
- What plans will we have to keep everyone safe and calm if the crowd gets too big or if there is an emergency? **We can make sure every person is only there for 15 minutes as they pass round the tables. We will try to make it a big open space with a lot of room for people to move about.**

When:

- Should the event be on a weekday afterschool or on the weekend? **A Sunday would be good to involve people that work on the weekday and young people. It also is not as busy as a Saturday so should be more manageable, especially for the restaurants.**
- How long should it go on for? You will need enough time to set up and take down if there are tables to clean up or disposable items you need to throw away. **2 hours would work - we can split the set up and take down into two shifts which would involve two different groups of youth councillors.**

How: **All of these questions can be answered and organised by the restaurants themselves.**

- How will the food be stored? Will you collect on the day?
- How will it be served; paper cups, cocktail sticks, paper plates? (How much are you willing to spend on these items?)
- Do you need allergy information of the food on the table in case someone cannot eat gluten, dairy, etc.?
- Will there be options for people with dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, halal, kosher)?
- Should there be hand sanitizing stations for hygiene?

Who: **This will depend on who is on which shift of the day. We will confirm in the next meeting.**

- Who will coordinate with restaurants and confirm participation?
- Who will manage setup, cleanup, and waste disposal?
- Who will be serving, guiding guests, or handling payments?

6. **Opportunity to Help Fund Water Refilling Station at the Leys**

Youth Councillors agreed that money fundraised from Witney Youth Council events would be put towards a new opportunity to help fund a water refilling station at The Leys.

7. **Items for Future Agenda**

A youth councillor suggested the Youth Council should have a list of Witney Restaurants for the next meeting to decide on who was going to talk to which one. The members agreed and suggested that the groups for which shifts would be decided in the next meeting.

8. **Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of the upcoming Youth Council meetings were received.

The Meeting closed.