



**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 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

**Youth Councillors Present:**

Four Youth Councillors

**Witney Town Council Mentors Present:**

Cllr G Meadows

Cllr S Simpson

**Witney Town Council Officers Present:**

A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communications and Engagement

P Inness – Communications and Community Engagement Officer

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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 from three youth councillors were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Youth Councillors were advised that if they 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. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were adopted and signed as correct.

**4. Guest Participation**

Participants at the meeting spoke with the Youth Council.

- Youth Chaplain for The Benefice of Witney

The Youth Chaplain informed the youth council of her role, the Youth Café currently taking place at the St Mary's Church every Friday, from 3PM to 7.30PM, and of the potential of a steering group for future events. By the end of April, the Youth Café will be monitored and considered expanding to other locals around Witney.

The Youth Chaplain also shared information about the cooked meals she provides at the church every Wednesday, as well as the Employability and Wellbeing Workshops currently held at Witney College and soon to be offered at Henry Box. She also discussed plans for a Youth Voice App, which would allow young people to quickly share their opinions and access helpful resources. The Youth Chaplain encouraged Youth Councillors to get involved and share their ideas to help shape these initiatives.

**5. Updates on the House of Commons Visit**

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

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

Youth Councillors reported that two restaurants had shown interest in the event. The Admin Assistant informed that in order for the event to take place, there would need to be at least seven restaurants confirmed in attending before the end of March as per the event plan.

The Youth Council Chair confirmed that further visits were to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March. A Youth Mentor advised that handing out small leaflets with all the details on may be the best way to encourage responses by giving information to take away. The Admin Assistant agreed to create and print simple leaflets for youth councillors to pick up on Friday before the visits.

**7. Annual Town Meeting Invitation and Video**

Chair of the Youth Council agreed to try to film a short video over the weekend for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting.

**8. National Youth Council**

Youth Councillors were informed of the reinstatement of the National Youth Council and voted all in favour of becoming a member.

**9. Items for Future Agenda**

A youth councillor suggested further planning for this event and a recap of the results from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan be discussed at the next meeting.

**10. Dates of Future Meetings**

The dates of the upcoming Youth Council meetings were received.

- Tue 14 April 2026 (Informal Meeting) – 4PM to 5PM