



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the informal meeting of the Witney Youth Council held at 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney on Wednesday 12th August 2026.

Youth Councillors Present:

Two Youth Councillors

Witney Town Council Mentors Present:

Cllr G Meadows

Cllr J Aitman

Witney Town Council Officers Present:

A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communications and Engagement

P Inness – Communications and Community Engagement Officer

The Councillor in attendance was a Youth Council mentor and was 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 six Youth Councillors and one Mentor were received.

2. Results from Witney Youth Council at Witney Carnival

The question we encouraged people to answer at Witney Carnival was:

Is the social media ban for under-16s a good thing?

Witney Youth Council collected a total of 23 votes from (mostly) young people at the carnival, majority agreeing that the Under-16 Social Media ban would be a good idea. Officers suggested a good use of this data could be putting a statement together to send to MP Charlie Maynard, to outline our thoughts and for him to use in a meeting where it may be applicable.

Results

Good idea – 16

Bad idea – 5

Not sure - 2

This could also be put on social media and the Youth Council webpage. An example of a statement was acknowledged and approved by the Chair to send to the MP.

Resolved: That, the Youth Council Admin on behalf of Witney Youth Council send MP Charlie Maynard the statement outlining their survey results.

3. National Youth Council Update

The most recent news from the NYC UK was received and discussed.

6. Further Recruitment Opportunities – Open meetings

Youth Councillors voted all in favour of opening Youth Council meetings to other young people who may wish to attend. However, as the meeting was not quorate with fewer than four Youth Councillors present, the decision could not be formally confirmed and will therefore need to be brought back for a further vote at the next formal Youth Council meeting.

7. Pizza and Politics – Youth Council's Local Politics Chat

The attending Youth Councillors agreed that they would like to hold an event similar to the Pizza and Politics event held by Oxfordshire County Council, in which they could invite town councillors and local decision makers in conversations on local politics, and talked about the details.

Details of the event were discussed and could include:

- Various Town Councillors on a table at the head of the room, which then leads to individual tables as the event goes on.
- Invitations to local Politics clubs, such as the Henry Box Politics Club and Sociology/history courses.
- Participants would need to sign up via online form with a prompt to write a question in preparation for the event.
- Youth Councillors integrated with participants on the tables
- Pizza from Oxon BBQ
- Certificates for participants to take home

8. Increase of the Youth Council Age Limit to 19/20/21

The Youth Council were informed that Town Council Officers are considering their request to raise the Youth Council Member age limit.

4. Items for Future Agenda

The Chair requested further discussion on the Pizza and Politics event and confirmed they would discuss with a local provider on how much catering would cost.

5. Dates of Future Meetings

Youth Councillors present discussed which day of the week worked best to hold consistent youth council meetings on. Youth Councillors who gave apologies agreed that Tuesdays and Wednesday did not work for their schedules, and so Mondays and Thursdays were considered. The admin for the Youth Council will discuss with the Bookings Administrator on availability and update members on future meeting dates.

The Meeting closed at 4.30pm.