



Minutes of the meeting of the Witney Youth Council held at 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney on Thursday 3rd September 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

The Councillors in attendance were Youth Council mentors and attended to provide guidance and answer questions. Officers advised Members that this was an opportunity to provide a voice for young people in Witney, and that the Town Council would seek to support their ideas and suggestions where possible.

1. Apologies

Apologies from two Youth Councillors and one Mentor were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2026 were adopted and signed as correct.

4. Guest Participation

There were no participants at the meeting waiting to speak with the Youth Council.

5. Further Recruitment Opportunities – Open meetings

Youth Councillors all voted in favour of opening Youth Council meetings to other young people who may wish to attend. Any visitors who would like to speak or ask questions could do so under the Public Participation section of the agenda.

Opening meetings by invitation was considered a useful way to introduce the Youth Council to prospective members, including friends of existing Youth Councillors who may be interested in joining but would like to understand how the Council operates before committing. Youth Councillors were asked to decide whether this should be implemented for future meetings.

Resolved: That, future Youth Council meetings be open to other young people by invitation from Youth Councillors.

That, participants at future meetings may speak or ask questions of the Youth Council under

the Public Participation section of the agenda.

6. Pizza and Politics – Youth Council’s Local Politics Chat

Youth Councillors discussed further details of the event, which would invite young people in Witney to take part in discussions on local politics with town councillors and local decision makers.

Members agreed that the event should take place towards the end of October half term, between 26 and 30 October, at around midday to avoid darker evening travel for young people attending. The Gallery Room was identified as the preferred location because it is central and appropriately sized. Members agreed that around 30 participants would be suitable, as the room has capacity for 60.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Councillors and a local PCSO were identified as invitees. The Youth Council admin would create a poster for the event, clearly promoting the free pizza available. The poster would be shared in schools, on noticeboards and online by the admin, Youth Council mentors and Youth Councillors. The event would also be promoted on Eventbrite under the agreed name, A Slice of Politics.

A Youth Councillor requested that the sign-up form include a section for young people to note topics of interest, helping to inform the event discussion.

Resolved: That, the event take place towards the end of October half term, between 26 and 30 October, at around midday to avoid darker evening travel for young people attending, and that the admin enquire with the Bookings Administrator about available dates.

That, the event be held in the Gallery Room, with an aim of around 30 attendees.

That, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Councillors and a local PCSO be invited by the admin on behalf of the Youth Council.

That, the Youth Council admin create a poster and Eventbrite link for Youth Councillors to promote the event among their peers.

That, A Slice of Politics be the name of the event.

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

The Youth Council was informed that Town Council Officers would present its request to increase the Youth Council membership age limit to the Stronger Communities Committee for consideration and decision in mid-September.

8. Results from Witney Youth Council at Witney Carnival – Statement to MP Charlie Maynard

Members were informed that the agreed statement had been sent and that the Youth Council admin was awaiting a response.

9. Youth Council Webpage Improvements

It was agreed that Youth Councillors would bring ideas for improving the Youth Council webpage to the next meeting.

10. Items for Future Agenda

The Chair requested further focused discussion on the Pizza and Politics event.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

Where possible, future meetings will take place on the second Thursday of each month. This may need to be a different Thursday in the month depending on hall availability. Please see the next meeting dates below:

- Thursday 1 October 2026
- Thursday 5 November 2026

- Thursday 3 December 2026

The Meeting closed at 4.40pm.