



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Witney Youth Council held at 4.00 pm on Thursday 1 October 2026 in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney.

Youth Councillors Present:

Three 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

The Town Councillors present attended as Youth Council mentors, providing guidance and answering questions. Officers advised Members that the Youth Council offered young people in Witney an opportunity to be heard and that the Town Council would support their ideas and suggestions where possible.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from four Youth Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

As the Youth Council was not quorate, Members were unable to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2026 as correct. Consideration of the minutes was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

4. Guest Participation

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak with the Youth Council.

5. Youth Council Roles

Roles for the forthcoming Youth Council year were discussed, and Members' preferences were recorded. As the Youth Council was not quorate, the roles could not be formally assigned. Confirmation was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

6. A Slice of Politics – Witney Youth Council Event

Youth Councillors discussed and agreed arrangements for the upcoming A Slice of Politics event. They identified the following topics for discussion:

- Projected additional online restrictions for young people, including the proposed social media ban for under-16s.
- Activities and events for young people.
- Future elections including town council and general elections.

These topics would be considered alongside responses submitted through the event sign-up form.

Event Additions – Screen and Background Music/Playlist

Youth Councillors proposed using the projector screen during the event to display photographs of Witney events, such as Witney Music Festival, Witney Pride and Witney Carnival.

Youth Councillors suggested background music may be appropriate to make the event more comfortable. Therefore, they were asked to compile a playlist of age-appropriate background music and send it to the Youth Council administrator by 16 October. The administrator would retain editing access to the final playlist.

Two Youth Councillors confirmed that they would attend the event. Business cards promoting the next Youth Council meeting were distributed to those present to share with their peers. Members were also advised that event posters and leaflets would be available for collection from the Town Council's administration office.

Resolved: That, the preferred topics for A Slice of Politics be considered alongside responses submitted through the event sign-up form.

That, the projector screen in the Gallery Room be used during the event to display photographs of local events, including Witney Music Festival, Witney Pride and Witney Carnival.

That, Youth Councillors be asked to compile a playlist of background music for the event by 16 October.

That, posters and leaflets be printed and made available for collection from the Town Council's administration office.

7. Youth Council Membership Age Limit

The Youth Council noted that the Stronger Communities Committee had agreed to increase the maximum membership age, enabling members to remain on the Council until they complete full-time school-based education.

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

The Youth Council noted the response from Charlie Maynard MP's office concerning the survey conducted at Witney Carnival on the proposed social media ban for under-16s.

Youth Councillors requested that Charlie Maynard MP be invited to the next Youth Council meeting to talk on the subject. If he was unavailable, the possibility of an informal meeting with a representative from his office would be explored.

Resolved: That, Charlie Maynard MP be invited to the next Youth Council meeting on 5 November and, if he is unavailable, that an informal meeting with a representative from his office be explored.

9. Items for Future Agenda

The Chair proposed that Youth Council members who attend three Youth Council events or activities, excluding meetings, should receive a baseball cap featuring Witney Youth Council branding to reward and encourage attendance.

The Youth Council administrator agreed to prepare designs and obtain quotations for consideration at the next Youth Council meeting. The proposal would then be referred to the Stronger Communities Committee two weeks later.

It was also requested that information on the upcoming Christmas events organised by the town council be included in the next meeting, such as the Mayor's Carols, Advent Fayre, and Witney Christmas Lights Switch-on.

Resolved: That, the Youth Council administrator prepare designs and obtain quotations for consideration

at the next Youth Council meeting, after which the proposal be referred to the Stronger Communities Committee for a decision two weeks later.

That, information on the upcoming Christmas events organised by the town council be included in the next meeting, such as the Mayor's Carols, Advent Fayre, and Witney Christmas Lights Switch-on.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

Where possible, future meetings will be held on the first or second Thursday of each month, subject to hall availability. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday 5 November 2026
- Thursday 3 December 2026

The meeting closed at 4.47 pm.