WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Witney Youth Council held at 4.00 pm on Thursday 5 November 2026 in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney.

Youth Councillors Present:
Four Youth Councillors

Witney Town Council Mentors Present:
Cllr S Simpson

Witney Town Council Officers Present:
A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communications and Engagement

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

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were noted from one Youth Councillor.

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 3 September 2026 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Guest Participation**
   No members of the public were present who wished to address the Youth Council.

5. **Youth Council Roles**
   Roles for the forthcoming Youth Council year were discussed and confirmed.

6. **A Slice of Politics – Witney Youth Council Event**
   Youth Councillors noted the report from the Admin Assistant and the amended date.

7. **Witney Youth Council Baseball Caps**
   Members agreed to purchase baseball caps for Youth Councillors to earn after attending three Youth Council events, as proposed at the previous meeting. To conserve the Youth Council budget, Members preferred the lowest-cost option: six grey caps printed by Business 2.

8. **Remembrance Wreath Laying**
   Youth Councillors agreed that the Media Officer would join the Chair in laying the wreath and noted the event details.

9. **Town Councillor Interviews**

Members received information about potential interviews with Town Councillors and agreed that they would like to be involved. The Treasurer proposed bringing in a countdown timer she had at home so that the videos could take the form of an interactive game, with Town Councillors answering questions within a set time. Other Members agreed with the proposal.

The Chair confirmed she would be happy to be in the video(s).

Resolved: That, the Communications and Community Engagement Officer set a date and time for filming and communicate these details to Members through the Admin Assistant.

10. **Meeting with Charlie Maynard MP**
Youth Councillors considered meeting with the MP to discuss proposed social media restrictions and concluded that such a meeting was not currently a priority.

11. **Items for Future Agenda**
The Youth Council Treasurer proposed a small trail or treasure hunt activity in which Members would hide small reindeer or sheep figures and residents would be given a leaflet to find them, similar to the York Ghost Hunt.

Proposed outline:

Small sheep figurines would be hidden or displayed at selected locations around Witney. Participants would follow a free trail map to find them.

Participants would:

1. Collect or download a free trail map at the Corn Exchange, with a suggested donation towards the Witney Youth Council event in February.
2. Visit participating locations around Witney.
3. Find the sheep and complete the associated challenge. (either 1. take one home – and only one! – or 2. count and try to find as many as you can)
4. Submit a completed trail sheet, if applicable.
5. Receive a small certificate or enter a free prize draw.

The event would need to take place during daylight hours, between 12 noon and 2 pm and no promotion will be needed as it will be a pop-up event during the Christmas holiday.

Further details would be discussed at the next Youth Council meeting on 3 December 2026.

Resolved: That, the Youth Council Admin Assistant design a draft leaflet for distribution.

That, the Youth Council Admin Assistant collate options for wooden or eco-friendly lamb figures to be hidden as part of the trail, for a decision at the next meeting.

12. **Dates of Future Meetings**
The dates of future meetings were noted:
    - Thursday 3 December 2026
    - Thursday 14 January 2027
    - Thursday 11 February 2027

The meeting closed at 4.58 pm.