

**Joint Parishes Youth Committee**

**Meeting**

**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6 p.m. in the Steyning Centre**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Alistair Russell (APC) Chair, Roger Potter (BPC ), Michelle Syred (SPC), Sarah Green (BPC), John Rowland (UBPC) and Nick Muggridge (from 6.30 p.m.).

**In Attendance:** Emma Edwards (from 6.15 p.m.), Ruth Hodgson and David Sheldon (Horsham Matters).

**Clerk:** Paddy Robson

The Chairman welcomed Ruth Hodgson, Sarah Green and John Rowland (deputising for Alan Chilver) attending for the first time.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Alan Chilver (UBPC), Les Nicholson (APC) and from Nick Muggridge re late arrival.

**2. Minutes of last Meeting**

2.1 The committee read and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017. These were signed by the Chairman.

2.2 Councillor Syred noted that the date of the current meeting did not meet the agreed quarterly format. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting be changed to meet this requirement. **Action:**

**Clerk**

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

3.1 It was agreed that the action from the last meeting to ensure the committee meetings were more widely publicised had not been acted upon. The meeting asked if Horsham Matters would be able to produce a printed format to display meeting details and that this would be put on all noticeboards etc. **Action H.M. and**

**P.C.s**

**4. Questions from the Public**

None present.

## **5. Horsham Matters Report**

- 5.1 Members discussed the financial statement received from Horsham Matters and agreed the assumption that there will be no overspend this year.
- 5.2 Horsham Matters confirmed that there will be a 2.5% increase in employment costs next year but that operation costs can be expected to remain similar.
- 5.3 Councillor Syred asked what had happened to the skate ramps and David Sheldon explained that they had not worked out as well as had been hoped mainly due to bad weather conditions. It had been decided that they were too great an expense to run and therefore Horsham Matters would be selling them.
- 5.4 There was discussion around the distribution of face to face hours of working and preparation and administration time. It was decided that the current arrangement was a reasonable one.

## **6. Future of the Youth Service**

- 6.1 It had been confirmed that Emma was leaving the service at the end of the month and the committee asked Horsham Matters to explain the arrangements that will be put into place.
- 6.2 Allan Taylor, an experienced youth worker will take Emma's place until a permanent worker can be appointed. It is expected that this will be until the end of the current contract. There will be then one role covering both Emma's 3 days and Maria's 2 days although it is possible that this role could be a shared one. Allan has worked with some of the young people previously and Councillor Muggridge said that he was impressed with his work. He also stressed that people should not expect another Emma but that he will bring different skills to the work.
- 6.3 It was confirmed that Horsham Matters have a flat charge for all their youth workers whatever their experience so that this is fair to all districts.
- 6.4 It was asked if it would be possible for a representative from the committee to be involved in the interview process. It was agreed that observing the candidate conducting a session would be preferable to involvement in the formal interview process.
- 6.5 Some concern was expressed about the mentoring role as many of the clients were girls. However, Emma said that this depends both upon the worker and the issue and it can work both ways.
- 6.6 Members were asked if their P.C.s had made a decision about next year's contract. Councillor Rowland said that Upper Beeding was happy to renew the contract, Steyning was making a decision at a meeting following this one and both Bramber and Ashurst had meetings this week. Ashurst had already deferred a decision. Steyning expressed concern if any parish did not renew as it would increase the percentage it would have to pay.

## **7. Youth Worker's Report**

- 7.1 Members had received a very comprehensive report from Emma showing a very full and successful term's work.
- 7.2 Numbers have been good with the Thursday group being the busiest it has ever been. Up to 46 young people have been attending this group. Hub Fun has between 15 and 20

attendees including a new group of Year 6 students. The Stand Together group at the Towers has proved very successful and Emma explained the value of Youth Voice in helping young people to engage with the local community. A variety of trips have been arranged.

7.3 Volunteers are currently needed for Hub Fun on Monday evenings and for Thursdays at Cuthmans.

7.4 The new IT system being developed for Horsham Matters has proved beneficial in helping the smooth registering of young people and the organisation of trips and groups etc.

7.5 Grateful thanks were extended to Emma by the committee for her huge contribution to the development of the service in the area. Councillor Syred gave thanks for all her work at the Towers and Councillor Muggridge said how much he had valued the way Emma had linked youth work to local activities. Everyone wished her all the best in her new role.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6 p.m. in The Steyning Centre.**