

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich CO12 3DS

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, CHURCH STREET, HARWICH
on
THURSDAY 28th APRIL 2022 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs Chant, Calver, Davidson, Fay, Fowler, J Henderson, McLeod, Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith, G Smith and Todd

Clerk: Ms Lucy Ballard

Chairman: Cllr I Henderson

Also present: 1 member of the public, 0 members of the press and Paul Phillips, District Youth & Community Commissioner

The Chairman welcomed members of the public as well as guest speaker, Paul Phillips.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Ferguson and Morrison

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Betty Holbrook proposed the minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 13th March 2019 (previously circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

BRIEFING FROM PAUL PHILLIPS, DISTRICT YOUTH & COMMUNITY COMMISSIONER

Cllr Henderson welcomed Paul Phillips of the Essex Youth Service to the meeting. Paul briefed members on the Essex Youth Service (EYS), which is a county wide organisation that aims to help young people develop socially, educationally and emotionally. As a district commissioner, Paul oversees the provision within the district and supports community groups with a target audience of up to age 19 years, and works closely with Teen Talk. During the pandemic, their face-to-face services were put on hold but they were able to provide some of their services online. Additionally, they carried out 'detached' work, which is work in other locations, such as the skate park, to promote good wellbeing. Paul also oversees the Vibe Centre (former West Wing) which is on the site of the Mayflower Primary School, and supports the groups which make use of it. It's free to use for community groups that support young people and there is a Friday evening youth club held there. Paul has worked alongside Teen Talk on various 'detached' work projects, trying to help identify the gaps in local support provision against the needs of young people. They've also been involved in bringing theatrical groups into schools to help teach teens, via drama performances, about issues that affect them. Going forward, EYS will be working with Teen Talk to create a study space in the Vibe Centre to assist those young people who are otherwise unable to study or revise from home, for a number of reasons including poor environment, size, lack of equipment etc. They're also working with an LGBTQ+ charity on a socialising project, which will make use

of the Vibe Centre also and which will provide young people with a safe space in which to talk about sexuality without fear of judgement. Paul asked if anyone wanted to take a look at the Vibe Centre, or knew anyone who might benefit from the support he and the EYS offer, to let him know.

Cllr I Henderson referred to the drama production that he attended on county lines and how good it was. He felt this was an example of some of EYS's great work.

Paul took the following questions from members.

Cllr Calver asked if there was an age limit for the LGBTQ+ support project at the Vibe Centre. Paul confirmed that it was initially intended to be for college aged people but that Outhouse East (an LGBT charity) had identified some younger people who would benefit from this so have brought the age limit down to 13 years.

Cllr Todd asked if all the EYS team were volunteers and how they were funded. Paul confirmed that whilst they work with partners, their aim is to work with the community, and they do use volunteers. EYS is funded via Essex County Council but they also get funding from other organisations that aim to support young people, including Active Essex.

Cllr I Henderson asked how many commissioners there are for the Tendring/Colchester area. Paul confirmed there are 3 district commissioners but 5/6 commissioners which engage in the various youth clubs that require more support.

Cllr J Henderson referred to the outreach work with Teen Talk, which has been brilliant, especially since the pandemic with the additional efforts made to engage with young people, who are noticeably keener to interact. She thanked Paul for all the work he and his team are doing. Paul credited Teen Talk as being instrumental in the successes.

Cllr I Henderson referred back to the study zone initiative and the early discussions. Paul said there is currently a space in Clacton waiting to be used for those not able to attend school for various reasons so its's great they're able to assist in this way.

Cllr Henderson thanked Paul for his time and presentation.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE