

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Youth Service Delivery Committee  
Meeting held at Grange Youth Centre, Shrewsbury  
At 10.30 am on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**PRESENT**

Councillors A Mosley (Chairman), G Burgess, Mrs P Moseley, K Pardy, & D Vasmer

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Adam Purnell (Youth & Community Development Officer), Natasha Dews (Youth Worker) and Heather Phillips (Administration Assistant)

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor I Jones, Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Andy Watkin (Responsible Finance Officer)

**16/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Councillor Mosley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Flaxivity as he was Chairman of the Friends of the Flaxmill at which the Town Council operates a youth session.

All present declared non-pecuniary interests as both Town & Unitary Councillors in any matters relating to agreements between both Councils.

**17/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the Youth Services Delivery Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**18/19 NOTES FROM INQUORATE MEETING**

Members noted that the meeting scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 was inquorate, but to make use of the time general discussions took place at the meeting with no decisions being taken. The informal notes taken at that meeting were appended to the agenda for information.

**19/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

## **20/19 HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES**

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that two activities took place over February half-term ie an ice-skating trip (10 children) and a trek up the Wrekin (9 children). Most of the children that took part were also participating in the alternative curriculum programme and keeping them positively engaged over half-term was deemed to be a great achievement.

The Grange Youth Club was not opened during half-term as previously planned due to staff holidays etc.

## **21/19 CLUB ACTIVITY**

Members of the committee noted the comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 as follows:

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that overall the youth clubs are doing well. Although attendance at Monkmoor Juniors was low at the beginning of the Autumn Term, numbers are now rising. It was reiterated that the individual children attending the clubs was far important than achieving high levels of attendance; working with the “right” individuals is paramount. Councillors were invited to visit the youth clubs in order to gain an insight into the work being done.

Members asked whether the attendance graphs could show a comparison with numbers from the previous term.

## **22/19 DETACHED WORK**

The Youth & Community Development Officer recommended that developments to detached work should be delayed due to the recent resignation from Youth Services of the detached lead. Shropshire Council is also due to appoint a strategic lead for Youth Support so detached work may be led by them.

Explorations had been made into the possibility of having a fixed space for the Detached Team in the Big Town Plan Office in the town centre. The Youth & Community Development Officer was concerned that it be properly staffed (and Saturdays are not easy for staff) or it could be inundated and look chaotic in what is a very public place. It is hoped that a pool and tennis tables will be installed.

It was also reported that no further information had yet been received since the SYA’s recent press release.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk and the Youth & Community Development Officer set up a meeting with Richard Parkes from the SYA.**

## 23/19 FLAXIVITY

Members of the committee noted the comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 as follows:

- The future of the Ramps at Flaxivity was discussed as this successful club is due to close in the Summer. Currently 41 youngsters from the immediate area are attending and there has been very positive engagement between them and the two committed youth workers running the session. A plot of the postcodes for all the youth groups will be requested for analysis. Resources, eg pool table, will be removed and re-homed.
- Possibilities for the relocation of Flaxivity were discussed. The Dyehouse could be an option at weekends but the ramps would have to be stowed away between uses and Historic England are undertaking some long-term building work on the building. Another idea to roof over the ramps at the Sports Village was also suggested. No permanent solutions for re-location were put forward but other temporary possibilities mooted were the Prison and the Grange School (now vacated).
- The relocation of the Boxing Club was also discussed again but Councillor Mosley expressed his opposition to it being housed in a Community Centre for the reasons that the building is to serve the whole community and is not there for profit-making purposes. The Town Clerk and the RFO are to meet with the Shrewsbury School of Boxing to explore solutions.

The Youth & Community Development Officer updated members that the boxing club has been housed in the old library and 2 classrooms of the (now vacated) Grange School. Shrewsbury Academy is considering offering a programme of activity for children at risk of exclusion and to link it in with the Youth Service and the boxing club. The Academy has offered this programme to other schools but they have yet to engage.

Members viewed the postcode analysis of the home addresses of those currently attending Flaxivity as appended to the agenda and noted that most lived in Shrewsbury but came from a wide area due to the specific nature of the activity. It was suggested that when Flaxivity closes, that some provision could be made for the ramps to be set up outside during the summer.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Committee discuss whether Flaxivity should be replaced with a youth club or detached work at the next meeting.**

## 24/19 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Youth & Community Development Officer reported that £2K has been received from the NHS and £2K from the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club are also holding a fundraising event for the Service in a marquee for which tickets are available. Youngsters will be serving food.

Members of the committee noted from comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 that a canoe safari activity was being explored and that Wild Lodge had been booked for the Summer holiday.

The following activities are planned for the Easter holiday:

Monday 6 April

- A group of children (mostly from Monkmoor Youth Club and the Alternative Curriculum group) will be taking over Dough & Oil on Castle Street and running the establishment from 5-9 pm on that day. Tables are available for booking and members were encouraged to attend. All profits will go back into helping fund Summer youth activities. The Youth & Community Development Officer is developing recipes with the group and providing training and preparation.
- Julie Brotherton will be holding a wellbeing event for girls at The Grange Centre during the daytime.

Tuesday 7 April

- A *Catch It, Kill It, Cook It, Eat It* activity will take place at Ellerdine Fisheries and the coach of the Junior England squad will be teaching children fly-fishing.

Wednesday 8 April

- Trip planned to the Crocky Trail, Chester.

Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 April

- Three-day residential to Manor Farm, Craven Arms using funds received from the Rotary Club for 10 children (9 boys, 1 girl). There will be 9 activities at a cost of £185 per head and this includes 2 free adult places.

## **25/19 ADDITIONAL FUNDED PROJECTS**

### **a) Reach Out to Music Project**

Youth Service staff reported that this session is proving to be a great success and members of the Committee were encouraged to view the *Young Shrewsbury* YouTube channel that has been set up showcasing some of the activity. On Friday, news of funding for a further 12 months will be received following the bid for an extension put in by the Youth & Community Development Officer.

### **b) Family Cooking Sessions**

These have proved successful in the past and one is due to take place after Easter with 6 new families taking part. 30 people attended the Christmas Dinner at The Grange.

### **c) Fishing**

Funding from Divert for last year's fishing project is not available this year. The Youth & Community Development Officer asked members of the Committee to approve the continuation of this project at a cost of approximately £100 per week from April to

September. Costs include van hire (about £18 per time), staff costs plus second coach (£60 per session), some kit and bait (which can also be sourced at no cost from Town Fisheries). Dorset Pools is free to use but it was thought that other locations would be a good incentive for other children to take part.

RESOLVED

**That if the Youth Service secure some funding for the Fishing project then the Committee will match it to enable the project to continue**

## **26/19 ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM – UPDATE**

Members of the committee noted the comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 as follows:

So far 20 referrals from schools for the Alternative Curriculum Project have been received, the majority of which are boys (ages 9-16). Five half-hour sessions per week will be provided. Activities include:

- Developing the garden area outside The Grange Centre and building a timber shelter.
- A charity football event organised for 1<sup>st</sup> February (1.00-3.00 pm). Shrewsbury Town FC have allowed use of their pitches and will provide some staff and referees to help with the event (which has had a lot of interest on social media). A trophy has been purchased. It is hoped that this might become an annual event. Shrewsbury Town FC have also pledged their support to the Youth Service and an activity is to be organised once a month.

The Alternative Curriculum Youth Worker updated members of the Committee by reporting that there are now 28 children taking part in the alternative curriculum programme and that 3 further referrals had been received from Shrewsbury Academy via the Team Shrewsbury meetings. The Assistant Headteacher of the Academy had observed some of these sessions and is very happy with the work being done and noticed that the work is having an impact on the young people involved. The two main positive outcomes of this work is that children who have already been excluded have some provision and that some are engaging in other activities such as the recent ice-skating and Wrekin trips.

Help with alternative curriculum activities has also been enlisted from The Hive for groups of children in years 5 and 6 together with some involvement from Energise and the boxing club. The Prince's Trust will be giving their accreditation for alternative curriculum activities.

It was also reported that the Education Authority had been in touch and that they will pay £40 per hour for commissioned places for some permanently excluded children.

Alternative curriculum sessions take place at The Grange Centre and generally consist of 2 hours per session per week for each child. Some of these sessions are 1:1 due to safe-guarding issues.

The Alternative Curriculum Youth Worker was thanked by the Committee for the fantastic work being done.

## **27/19 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – YOUTH SERVICE DELIVERY**

Members of the committee noted the comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 as follows:

Shropshire Council's Cabinet Paper on Youth Support, the Youth Strategy Consultation 2019 Feedback Report and the SYA's Press Release dated 16.01.2020 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that Shrewsbury Town Council would not be getting any further funding.

Shropshire Council will be employing a strategic lead for Youth Support who would develop the Youth Partnership model and manage a team of 3 professionally qualified youth workers, based North, Central and South. The overall plan, however, for the changes were not clear to members of the Committee.

REESOLVED

**That the Youth & Community Development Officer arrange to meet with the Strategic Lead when appointed to discuss how the services can complement each other.**

## **28/19 BUDGET**

Members of the Committee noted the comments made at the inquorate meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 as follows:

The Responsible Finance Officer provided a copy of the Youth Programme and Grange Centre Budget for 2020/21 and an update of spending in 2019/20.

The RFO confirmed that in the new financial year the community centres will be allocated their own cost centre as opposed to the merged one. It was also suggested that the Alternative Curriculum have a separate section for its budget.

**The Grange Centre** It was noted that the cleaning costs for The Grange Centre are still being paid for by Shropshire Council. An alteration to the cleaner's contract was discussed to include cleaning Sundorne: it was thought that 2 hours per day to the clean The Grange (as is the current arrangement) was not necessary. It was also noted that the heating system doesn't have a timer so there is no regulation and this must be set against STC's carbon footprint.

Committee members received an update on the budget and it was noted that a new boiler has had to be installed at The Grange Centre at a cost of £4K. The boiler offers some control settings and is a low carbon model.

It was noted that a local Scout group was looking for a new HQ and that the old computer room in The Grange Centre might suffice; this would bring in some additional funding. The group may also want to use the Centre as a training base during weekends. The Youth & Community Development Officer is in negotiations with the group over hire costs.

It was noted that Alternative Curriculum work was sometimes hard to plan when there was no specific budget to work with.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Clerk meets with the Deputy Town Clerk to discuss the budget for Alternative Curriculum work.**

**That an item is to be included on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss whether the Youth Services Committee should be absorbed into the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**