

Sherborne Youth Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 30 January 2025

12.30 to 1.30 pm at Sherborne Girls

Present:

All local schools were represented at the meeting, except for Sherborne School, which unfortunately could not send councillors to this meeting. The presence of various schools was appreciated, highlighting the collaborative spirit of our community's youth.

Election of Chair:

The youth council held a unanimous vote, resulting in Eden from Sherborne Primary School being elected as the new Chair. Eden expressed gratitude and is looking forward to representing young people at future meetings.

Election of Vice Chair:

In a similarly enthusiastic vote, Charlie from Sherborne Primary School was elected as the Vice Chair. Charlie is excited to take on this role and work alongside Eden to help elevate the council's initiatives.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the last meeting, dated 14th November 2024, were reviewed and agreed upon as an accurate record of the discussions and decisions made.

Community Events for 2025:

Sherborne Town Council is thrilled to announce a significant upcoming event: the Gaia Touring Artwork (Earth) will be on display at Sherborne Abbey from 29th August for a two-week period. This event promises to be visually captivating and educational. Additionally, there will be a Pageant in Sherborne held between 13th and 15th June, where young people will play a pivotal role. Active participation is encouraged, and planning will soon include brainstorming sessions for youth involvement.

Projects and Funding:

The Youth Town Council has been allocated a budget of £1,000 specifically for projects. Any unallocated funding will roll over into the next financial year, allowing an additional £1,000 to be available for future initiatives.

During the meeting, the youth councillors expressed a strong desire to launch a competition to decorate the bollards in the Sherborne Town Centre. This initiative aims to facilitate creative expressions showcasing local figures, nature themes, sports imagery, environmental awareness, and more. A brainstorming session generated excitement about potential designs. The bollards in town will be counted before the next meeting.

The discussions expanded into how the Youth Town Council could help improve the town. Suggestions included ensuring the preservation of open spaces and the potential for rewilding projects.

Town of Culture 2026:

In an inspiring update, Sherborne is once again bidding for the prestigious title of Town of Culture 2026. This year, the town will be competing against three other towns in Dorset. An exciting and ambitious bid has been submitted, packed with innovative ideas aimed at enriching the cultural landscape. A judging panel is scheduled to visit Sherborne in February to meet representatives from various local organisations and assess the town's readiness and proposals.

Actions to Consider:

Several actionable steps were agreed upon to enhance community engagement and execute projects successfully:

- Assess and compile a list of clubs currently available for school-age children within the community.
- Identify green open space areas suitable for rewilding and other relevant community projects, ensuring a focus on sustainability.
- The Sherborne in Bloom project has been revitalised, with new planting locations scheduled to be identified. A garden competition is anticipated for the spring, which will present a wonderful opportunity for young participants to showcase their gardening skills and creativity.
- Interest was shown by some Youth Town Councillors regarding engagement with the Sherborne Bowl Club. Plans to arrange some games for interested members will be pursued, promoting community spirit and recreational involvement.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 27th March 2025, and will take place from 12.30 to 2 pm at Sherborne School. Members are encouraged to come prepared with ideas and proposals to ensure active participation in future discussions.