**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JUNE 2014**

**Present:**

Finn Hurden (Grange CP School), Kuncharamn Malaravan (Causton School) and Tony Rix (Colneis School) (Chairmen)

Jessica Wardley and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Finn Amos and Tricia Washbrook (Colneis School)

Kyle Flynn, Liberty Pinner and Corinne Stockdale (Grange CP School)

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater and Shez Southernwood (Level2)

Mark Taylor (Places for People Leisure)

The Mayor, Councillor Graham Newman and Councillors Margaret Morris, Doreen Savage and Joan Sennington (Felixstowe Town Council)

Lorna Monsen (Felixstowe Town Council).

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Chairmen welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Rebecca Fryer, Jonny Lowdell and the Interim Town Clerk, Gordon Mussett.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 21st May 2014, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, were agreed as a true record and the Chairmen was authorised to sign them.

**4. UPDATE FROM GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The representatives from Grange School reported that their school took part in Youth Speaks which is a public speaker event held by the Rotary Club of Felixstowe and was held at Christ Church. Each school did a short presentation on a set topic which this year was ‘Having a Voice’. Grange School representatives said they tried to inject some humour into their talk by pretending to be newsreaders. They talked about Anne Frank who had a voice through her diary and they discussed how children could have a voice about where they live through things like the Youth Forum. Then they wondered if they could influence the government and ask them to print some more money so that no one would be poor ! This was rejected because you would need to cut down more trees and the ink bill would be ink-credible ! Grange School had enjoyed the occasion very much and received a certificate from the Rotary Club.

Grange School representatives reported that they had just had their Sports Day which involved 5 events, long jump, javelin, discus, shot put and a relay race which then accumulated points for their teams. The winning team received a trophy from the Cavendish Community Association as well as a Team Spirit award given to the team whom encouraged their team mates the most. Many parents attended who enjoyed the refreshments from the school cooks.

Grange School representatives told the Youth Forum that they were looking forward to performing their play Pirates of the Currybean. They all know their lines and although there are a lot of props they were hoping practice would make perfect.

The representatives from Grange School reported that their Year 6 had their customary water fight with their teachers and a barbeque to celebrate them leaving Grange Primary onto High School. They were very excited about the new challenges they would be experiencing and they had enjoyed their time at the Youth Forum.

**5. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Mayor, Councillor Graham Newman told the Forum that Felixstowe Town Council would be having a new Town Clerk called Ash Tadjrishi. He was an experienced Town Clerk who had been a Town Clerk in London and was moving into Felixstowe over the next few weeks. The Mayor told the Forum that this was a new phase and that this would hopefully be a more positive (effective) outlook for the town.

Doreen Savage told the Forum that the Town Council had agreed to supply Youth Forum members with Spring bulbs for planting in the Autumn. At the same Town Council meeting it was discussed that it could be beneficial for the Youth Forum to have a small budget of their own, for example to use towards a presentation for the High Sheriffs Award.

Doreen Savage introduced a Youtube clip called ‘What’s the Sea Ever Done For Us’ which was made by school children from Mountbatten School, Romsey in Hampshire and was put together with the Seafarers UK. She explained that because we live by the sea and have a Seafarers Centre in the Town that members of the Youth Forum might be interested in what the Merchant seamen do to bring goods over the sea.

After the short clip the Members discussed what they had seen. Doreen Savage told the Forum how hard the Seafarers organisation worked. They were there for the men on the ships who were in Felixstowe when tragedy struck the Philippines last year and the men did not know if their families were alive or dead. There was also worries concerning pirates on the open seas and over 400 sea men were being held by pirates from Somalia , although moves were being made to get them released. Felixstowe had a Sea Cadet unit and if anyone was interested children could join when they were 10 years old and learn and do exciting things around the sea.

**6. UPDATE FROM PLACES FOR PEOPLE LEISURE**

Mark Taylor, General Manager from Places for People Leisure reported to the Youth Forum that as from April 2014 DC Leisure had been rebranded Places for People Leisure. This was to reflect their Social Enterprise status which is a business that has both social and commercial goals. What makes it different from other enterprises is that it places a firm emphasis on tackling social problems.

The engagement of the key post for the new Community Officer was still ongoing and they were just waiting for approval from their Head Office before appointing someone. The Community Officer’s job will be to go out into the community, especially the local schools to see what exactly the public would like for leisure facilities in Felixstowe. They would not be office based and this was an exciting time for the organisation. There would be involvement with Live Well Suffolk which is commissioned by Suffolk County Council in partnership with the NHS see link: <http://www.livewellsuffolk.org.uk/> There would also be an introduction to a Health & Well Being Project including Myzone and Swimtag. MYZONE is a chest strap and monitoring system that transmits heart rate, calories and effort in real time to a live display and wirelessly uploads that data to a logbook that can be accessed online or through the free MYZONE® Lite App. It is the only exercise tracking system that is able to provide real-time feedback of exercise intensity as well as wirelessly upload exercise data that has been stored, making the technology simple and convenient for everyone to use. For more information see link <http://www.myzone.org/>

Swimtag provides you with a unique view of your swim, you can breakdown each individual length and you can update your latest progress and achievements. Each swim is analysed on upload providing the following key stats that can be tracked over time:

Total Distance

Swimming Time

Estimated Calories

Average Pace

Average DPS

Average Stroke Rate

Rest Percentage

You will also receive notifications from the Leisure centre on the latest news and events, for further information see link: <http://www.swimtag.net/>

**7. UPDATE FROM LEVEL2**

Representatives from Level2 reported that all Level2 sessions were running well with good attendance. Already this year they have had over 500 individual young people visiting them with over 4000 visits in total. The May half term holiday activities went well and members are now putting the finishing touches to their float entries for both Trimley and Felixstowe Carnivals. They were looking forward to their Summer holiday activities for example: Pamper Day, Boys chill out day, Swim part at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Trip to London to go on the London Eye and visit Convent Garden, Colchester Zoo, a Harbour River Cruise and much more.

Level2 reported that their community art project for Travel Watch is now complete so they were waiting for Greater Anglia to put it up on the board by the Station and then an official ceremony would follow shortly afterwards to launch it.

To promote harmony across the age groups in the wider community Level2 ‘Get a Life’ with Mr Green the skeleton had been going well. The 2.13 metre skeleton had been into all their sessions and had created opportunities to discuss this topic.

Representatives from Level2 reported than they had been a couple of fundraising events to raise money for Level2, one was a bag pack at the local Tesco store which raised £549.00 and a one of the young people had held a garage sale and raised £63.70.

**8. UPDATE FROM CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Representatives from Causton School reported that their final term at school had been very busy. Year6 had and were having a lot of interesting induction days at Felixstowe Academy including World of Work which was a great success.

The representatives from Causton School told the Forum about their Sports Day that was due to be held the following week. This was when they were to be joined by their friends from Maidstone Infants for 10 different events and activities. This was a non competitive Sports Day, where points were awarded to different colour teams. The team with the most points would win the sports trophy for the whole year. Another sporting event that they were going to be involved in was at Trimley St Mary School where their most talented runners would be competing in the Area Sports Day. As it was the World Cup Football Tournament this summer each class in their school were given 3 World Cup Teams when a team won their game the class were allowed to play table football and have tea and cakes !

Susan Moss told the Forum that Kuncharamn Malaravan had won a scholarship to

**9. UPDATE FROM COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Colneis Junior School reported that they were worried about staying safe on the paths and roads close to their school, especially just before and after school as people were riding scooters and bikes on busy paths and not always looking carefully before they cross. Colneis Junior School were working on producing a Code of Conduct for everybody to follow. Each Class Council representative worked with their class to come up with solutions, rules or concerns about the following issues:

* Scooting on the path
* Biking on the path and
* Not looking when crossing the road.

Some of the ideas and rules that had been suggested were as follows:

* Have a particular side to scoot on
* Give way to pedestrians
* Only scoot when the path is clear
* No scooting on the pavement in Colneis Road and Rosemary Avenue
* Teachers to stand closer to the road at the end of the day, rather than the playground.

And many more.

Doreen Savage said that the rules were excellent and that there were a lot of issues to be solved including cars parked illegally and children being let out of cars in the road side rather than on the pavement. Margaret Morris asked the representatives from Colneis Junior School if they had spoken to the Community Safety Officer who would be able to monitor the problem. The representatives told the Forum that an article was going to appear in their Newsletter stating that the school was making a list of car registration numbers of cars parked illegally and then the list would be passed on to the Police.

**10. CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor Graham Newman told the Forum about the Town Council’s Commemoration of the First World War Event being held on Sunday 4th August. The Mayor said if it is was not for the brave people who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War the world would be a different place. He asked the Forum if any Youth Forum Members were interested to read at the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial and lay some flowers along with the Mayor and the local MP Therese Coffey. After discussion it was agreed that Tony Rix from Colneis School and Jessica Pond from Level2 and Felixstowe Academy would represent Felixstowe Youth Forum.

**11. YEAR 6 PUPILS**

All Year 6 pupils were warmly thanked for the support to the Youth Forum during the year, and the Youth Forum offered best wishes for their move up to senior school.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 8th October at 4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (to be **Chaired by Grange Community Primary School**).

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