

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 29th May 2019

1920/027 Prudhoe Town Council Young People's Forum

Cllr Gerry Price reported that meetings were in abeyance until September and that whilst a round-robin discussion took place on 15th May with Ashley Brown (Senior Youth Practitioner) and those Cllrs who attended, no consensus of a way forward was resolved. Cllr Price suggested a pre-meeting before the September meeting to look at the aims of the forum, the agenda and the attendees.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to Ashley Brown to ask if he could convene a pre-meeting to the September meeting and invite all those involved in youth groups so that everyone can have an input as to the most valuable format for the Forum, and agree a way forward.

Extract from Prudhoe Youth Forum Meeting, held on 13th June 2019

- (i) Members thought it would be good to convene a meeting of all the youth organisations in the town and agreed to call a meeting in early September that should include schools, churches and the police. Chris offered to get a mailing list together. Date later suggested 12th September 2019.

Following receipt of the report of the PYP Meeting the Clerk emailed Mr George Hepburn, as follows:

I'm responding as wish to I want to avoid a duplication of effort as it seems that PYP intends to arrange a meeting of youth groups for 12th September; the Town Council agreed at their May Ordinary Meeting to request that Ashley Brown (Northumberland Youth Service) arrange a meeting of Youth Groups in order to progress the type of Youth Forum that is going to work best for the town and the YP of Prudhoe, but this may have been lost in translation.

I can't see the value of having two meetings and the youth groups invited would rightly wonder what was going on if they were invited to two similar meetings in September so I will refer back to Council. I did caution at the time the Council agreeing an action for another organisation as we have no control as to whether it is carried out; Cllrs also challenged this.

I would assume that Ashley Brown will be invited to the meeting on 12th September so I wonder if the prospect of a 'youth forum' and/or regular meeting of youth groups could be added to that agenda?

I don't wish to circumvent the decision of the Town Council, especially as Cllrs were present at the meeting when PYP agreed this themselves, but it does seem odd to have two organisations arranging separate meetings that could quite easily be combined as I suspect they may have the same aim.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Following discussion, Mr George Hepburn advised that he will liaise with the Chair of PYP but sees no issue with the meeting discussing the potential of further meetings of the collective of youth groups and/or of the value of a 'youth forum' in the sense of a meeting for young people.