**MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY 2014**

**Present:**

Ollie Smith (Chairman) and Adrian Lawson-Frost

KuncharamnMalaravan , Jessica Wardley and Sue Moss (Causton School)

Daniel Martin, Tony Rix and Rebecca Fryer (Colneis School)

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

Jessica Pond, Symone Slater and Wendy O’Connor (Level2)

Councillors Doreen Savage and Joan Sennington (Felixstowe Town Council)

Lorna Monsen and Gordon Mussett, Acting Town Clerk (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 Jonny Lowdell and Shez Southernwood.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26thMARCH 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 26th March 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 COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL**

The representatives from Colneis Junior School reported that since the beginning of term 3 they have been working really hard getting ready for their SATs and therefore their School Council duties have been kept to a minimum. As well as working hard in the class, there was an optional SATs club at lunchtime for children who wanted to do extra revision. They believed their SATs went well and hopefully when they get their results all the hard work will have paid off. As a reward the teachers gave them a lollipop at the end of each test and this was probably their best part of SATs week.

Colneis Junior School representatives said that their production of Charlie was very successful and well received. Most of their Year6 were involved in some way, whether it was acting, dancing, singing, stage crew or set design. The rest of the cast and choir were made up of children from Years 3, 4 and 5. Their School Governor Mike Jude who was also a School Inspector said that he had had a wonderful evening and he thought the characters were extremely well thought out as were the costumes, props and singers. The whole School enjoyed the experience.

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

Grange Primary School reported that now their SATs tests were finished and hopefully went well they have started rehearsals for their Year 6 production of Pirates of the Curry Bean. It is a comedy and the whole of Year 6 have parts to learn and songs to sing. The performances are on 1st and 2nd July and they are really looking forward to it. The rest of the school were also having treats. Year 1 and 2 were going on a trip to Foxburrow Farm and Nursery and Reception were going to Rendlesham Forest. This term they were looking forward to also having beach trips and Sports Day and the Year 6’s were having a residential trip to Belchamps in Essex in July, which will be full of adventurous activities.

**6. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY**

Ollie Smith representing Felixstowe Academy reported that it was great at last to be united as a whole Academy in one new amazing building. The students were very busy with their GCSE’s and A Level’s but they were enjoying their new environment. Felixstowe Academy’s Year 7 & 9 have both won cups in football tournaments and it was hoped Year 8 would also win a trophy as they were in the final !

Felixstowe Academy representatives said that their production of Wonder sold record ticket sales and had rave reviews.

Four students from the Academy, including Ollie Smith, were representing the Felixstowe and United Kingdom at the World Scout Jamboree. The Jamboree occurs every four years and this year will see 40,000 Scouts around the world gather together in Japan for two weeks which will include 1 week with a Japanese family. They will also be involved in a series of projects specifically designed to develop a global understanding of issues facing young people and Scouts from around the world.

Doreen Savage asked if Felixstowe Academy was a good environment to learn and Ollie Smith reported that he cannot express how amazing it was. There had been a slight problem when the Academy opened where there was only one break where the whole school was together and initially this caused a slight problem when the 1400 students were all using the same staircase to get around which did cause a few teething problems. However, breaks were now staggered.

**7. UPDATE FROM FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Gordon Mussett, the Interim Town Clerk told the Youth Forum that Felixstowe Town Council had funded the new flags along the promenade. These were to represent the thirty two countries involved in this year’s football World Cup, plus a further eight European countries with whom the Port of Felixstowe does trade. There were also a further ten Felixstowe Town Council flags along Undercliff Road West. As part of this promotion the Town Council was offering a prize to the first young person (under 16) who can both name all the countries represented on the flags AND as a tie breaker guess the winner of the football World Cup 2014. The prize would be a £25.00 Amazon voucher.

Gordon Mussett reported that Felixstowe Town Council were looking at play equipment provision for the town and subject to land availability and the correct area found the Town Council were hoping to be able to install a trim trail for teenagers and adults.

A Member of the Youth Forum asked who had paid for the new Play Equipment at the new South Seafront Development. Doreen Savage reported that it was funded by Suffolk Coastal District Council and Bloor Homes the builders of the site. She had received very good reports about the play equipment and it was lovely to be able to walk through the site. A Causton School representative said that when he had visited the site it was very crowded but he enjoyed it very much.

Doreen Savage reported that Languard Fort had a busy list of events on their website for young people and please log in to <http://www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk> to view the different activities throughout the year. On the following Saturday Felixstowe Council for Sport and Recreation was holding a Community Day at Coronation Sports Field which would include all sorts of activities including races and stalls.

A Colneis representative asked if there was an update on the Spa Pavilion and the Pier. It was explained that the Pier was in private ownership. The owner had submitted a revised planning application which included losing the function room and one dome. At the moment it was going through the planning process at Suffolk Coastal District Council which is the Planning Authority for Suffolk Coastal. It was hoped that work would start at the end of Summer but the costs were a lot more than the owner had anticipated. Suffolk Coastal District Council had announced that they were talking to an interested bidder to possibly take over the Spa Pavilion premises, with plans to re-launch the venue on the seafront. They hope to have further news later in the Summer.

Gordon Mussett told the Youth Forum Members that an exciting opportunity had materialised for Felixstowe Town Council. The Tourist Information Centre and the Benefits Office were moving out of their buildings and the Town Council were looking to acquire it. This was an interesting prospect as the buildings were next door to the Town Hall and could be a potential business opportunity.

Gordon Mussett reported to the Members of the Youth Forum that a new Town Clerk would be starting at Felixstowe Town Council in the middle of July called Ash Tadjrashi. He had been a Town Clerk at Epping Town Council and had lots of experience in Local Government.

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

Unfortunately Jonny Lowdell had sent his apologies but had asked Lorna Monsen to read the following briefing to the Youth Forum Members:

**Brackenbury**

All Weather Pitch refurbished, come along and try it out in the half term, bookings available daily.  All normal drop in and casual court hire available.

**Felixstowe Leisure Centre**

Usual sessions running with the addition of a Coloured Pool Party on Wednesday 28th May between 10am and 12pm.

DC Leisure has now changed its name to Places for People Leisure. Places for People Leisure are still waiting to appoint a community engagement post. Unfortunately this is taking longer than expected as they are trying to find the right person for what they want delivered.

**9. UPDATE FROM LEVEL 2**

Representatives from Level2 reported that all sessions are running well with good numbers of Young People attending. Already this year they had 459 individual Young People visiting them with over 3076 visits in total. The Easter holiday activities went really well, and they are now looking forward to their exciting May Half-term programme of activities and trips which will include a Pamper day, Carnival workshop to prepare for their entry into Trimley & Felixstowe Carnivals & a trip to Thorpe Park. Their community Art project for Travel-Watch is now nearly complete so look out for this at Felixstowe Train Station. On their Facebook page and website there is loads of information for Young People, Parents and anyone interested in finding out more about Level Two. If you or your parents have Facebook then become a friend and like their page.

Level2 representatives reported that they had secured funding for their summer holiday Art Project and they will be working with a Local Artist to design and paint the stairwell at their Youth Hub. Felixstowe’s new Mayor for 2014-2015 Councillor Graham Newman has chosen Level Two as one of his charities, along with the Citizens Advice Bureau. This will give lots of fun opportunities for Young People to get involved with community & fundraising events.

The representatives from Level2 reported that anti-social behaviour is still an issue in Felixstowe, and so Level Two will be running a new project called “Get a Life”. The main aim is promote harmony across the age groups in our wider community. One issue that divides the community is the perception of criminal damage and antisocial behaviour by young people. This is known to be a key cause of fear of crime in our older community, and yet mostly this fear is exaggerated by misconceptions. There are issues to address on both sides.

Another piece of exciting news is that Level Two have been awarded the HMS Ganges Youth Trophy on behalf of our Young Volunteers in recognition of their high level of community service to the town of Felixstowe.

The Past Mayor, Councillor Jan Garfield and her consort Councillor Jon Garfield visited Level Two on 24th April, during our Year 6 open access youth session. They really enjoyed meeting the Mayor and asking questions about what the role of Mayor involves, and even how heavy the chain is! The visit by the Mayor was to officially hand over a gift from Wesel, one of Felixstowe’s Twin Town’s in Germany, to Level Two Youth Project a donation of 400 Euros celebrating 40 years of the friendship of Felixstowe and Wesel. It was interesting for the young people to hear more about our Twin town, and there was a lot of enthusiasm about a possible youth exchange visit during 2015. Also the acting Town Clerk Gordon Mussett visited Level Two last Thursday and met some of our Year 6s. They enjoyed showing him around our centre and asking questions.

**10. UPDATE FROM CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Representatives from Causton Junior School reported that they had a Maths day at their School. This involved inviting children from Maidstone Infant School.

The Causton School representatives reported that they also had been studying hard for their SAT exams. They had a special Breakfast Club for children going through their exams where they could all meet together and encourage and support each other. The ‘Coffee Afternoons’ were still very popular with parents and children and the latest one had a Seaside theme. These included making beach huts, making fish out of hand prints and baking.

**11. HIGH SHERIFF’S AWARD**

Susan Moss reported that she really enjoyed the High Sheriffs Award Evening at Suffolk College and the children’s behaviour had been impeccable. The Youth Forum Members who had attended were the youngest there and 2 hours was a long time to sit still !Joan Sennington thanked the Members for attending and hoped they had enjoyed themselves. Doreen Savage thanked Gordon Mussett for putting forward Felixstowe Youth Forum for this award and hope that next year the Forum would be able to have more time to organise a presentation for the event as it was a good experience for children.

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

Lorna Monsen was asked by the Mayor, Councillor Graham Newman to invite two Members (one boy and one girl) of the Youth Forum to read at the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 4th August at the War Memorial and lay some flowers with the Mayor to commemorate this event. As this was in the Summer holidays it was agreed that teachers would approach any interested Members parents to see if they were available. It was agreed that Lorna Monsen would circulate the readings to the Youth Forum Members and it would be discussed further at the next Youth Forum meeting.

**13. LITTER ACTION – SPRING CLEAN SUFFOLK 2014**

The Youth Forum after much discussion agreed not to participate in Spring Clean Suffolk 2014. Gordon Mussett wondered if the Forum were minded to plant Spring bulbs in their school grounds or surrounding areas. The bulbs would need to be planted in the Autumn ready for Spring 2015. The Forum Members thought this was a great idea and Gordon Mussett agreed to investigate further.

**14. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The draft dates for future Youth Forum meetings were discussed and Forum Members agreed the following dates:

8th October 2014 - Chairman – Grange Community Primary School

12th November 2014 - Chairman – Colneis Junior School

28th January 2015 - Chairman – Level2

25th March 2015 - Chairman - Causton Junior School

It was agreed that any further dates would be discussed at the Youth Forum when school diaries had been decided.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 25th June 2014** at **4pm** at Felixstowe Town Hall (Chairmen, as agreed, one Youth Forum Member from Causton Junior School, Colneis Junior School and Grange Community Primary School).