

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 20th March 2024**

at Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN133QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.05 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.54 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Aanya Sidhu- Chair	Apologies	Maya Goodrich	Apologies
Niki Zhang- Vice-Chair	Apologies	Bea Hayward	Apologies
Simba Li- Treasurer	Apologies	Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Sharma Ishwar	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Present	Harry King	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Madeleine Politzer	Apologies
Rosie Blackmore	Present	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Absent
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Present	Jospeh Soanes	Present
Ayush Gautam	Present	Aditya Vara	Absent

In attendance: Georgie Jackson, Responsible Finance Officer & Deputy Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk, Cllr Chloe Gustard & Cllr Dr Meryl Canet

- 1. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer Jospeh Soanes was elected to Chair the meeting.**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
Received as shown above.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 17th January 2024**
RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 17th January 2024.
- 4. Finance Report**
The Youth Council received the Finance Report.
RESOLVED: To note that the current balance was £1720.10
- 5. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:**
Daren reported that House in the basement had started the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), and was currently in its fifth week, numbers had been slow to the uptake, but it has been picking up.
RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.
- 6. Maze Wheel**
The Youth Council received the design specifications for a sensory maze wheel game from a Youth Councillor and their Brother aimed at helping the community to be more fun and inclusive. Unfortunately, both were unable to attend the meeting and the chair moved to defer this item to the next meeting to allow them the opportunity to explain the project in more detail.
RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next Youth Council meeting on the 15th of May.

7. Climate Change Youth Forum

The Youth Council heard from Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet that we had an amazing speaker, Michelle Alger who came in at the last minute and spoke about turning hard plastics into furniture. The Youth Council enquired how the project had been advertised and whether schools were aware of the project, it was noted that while the posters had gone out to schools and other youth organisations across the town it may require a driving force from young people either through talking to friends or school extra curriculum groups. It was also noted that school visits may also help get the word out about the meetings.

It was also noted that the next date of the meeting is 17th of April many schools are holding after-school tutoring sessions for exam preparations.

RESOLVED: To note the next meeting of Climate Change Youth Forum, takes place on the 17th of April at 6pm with Guest Speaker Trevor Kennet, Head of Direct Services at Sevenoaks District Council on *"Recycling in Sevenoaks"*.

8. Youth Council Promotion

The Youth Council mentioned that posting on social media would be ideal to help raise awareness of what they are doing for young people and the town. It was noted that while they have an Instagram account no posts as of yet have been done, though they currently have 40 followers. It was also noted that the current poster for the Youth Council could do with updating, adding the Instagram as well as the website may help to raise awareness and Posters in schools were small which made it hard for young people to see to get the information.

It was also noted that the Youth Council would like a page in the Town Crier to promote Youth Council activities such as their main priorities and any events they may want to hold over their two-year term. The Youth Council noted that perhaps having a magazine similar to the Town Crier may also be useful to help promote youth events in and around the Town as well as in House in the Basement.

9. Youth Council Priorities- Environment, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Community.

The Youth Council highlighted that Mental Health has become a large issue for young people in recent years. They wanted to raise more awareness as to how to help young people suffering with mental health. One way they noted is that in many of the schools they have trained teachers and staff to help but not everyone knows who these teachers are. It was noted that schools could sign post who the teachers are that they can go to.

It was mentioned that perhaps it would be beneficial for the Youth Council to hear from people like Sevenoaks Mind or West Heath school on Mental Health and how it affects young people.

The Youth Council also heard that in the last meeting they mentioned a survey for young people to use for any mental issues and to report incidents like bullying and help sign post young people to where they can get help, it was noted that this would be a large task as it requires engagement from all schools in the Sevenoaks area and safeguarding leads.

It was suggested that a poster could be created for young people to have around schools and the town for them to know who to contact for help with any issues by that at home or at school. The Youth Council outlined that a presentation to schools would also be beneficial

to help outline what other schools are doing to help students to find a person they can talk to, As well as what help is available from other organisations. It was also mentioned that this could also be a way of introducing the Youth Council to schools. It was noted that either the Chair or other members of the Youth Council could give the presentation, with the help and support of the Town Council or another member of the Town Council could give the presentation if the Youth Councillors did not feel comfortable.

It was also mentioned that the Youth Council had proposed support for the charity **Friends for Family**, they mentioned that it might be helpful to invite Friends for Family to a meeting of the Youth Council to see what support they might need.

6. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: Next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at HiTB Youth Café, TN13 1ZZ.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.