

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council Held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 in the Bat and Ball Centre, Crampton's Road, TN14 5DN

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:00

Present:

Aahana Verma	Apologies	Kisali Wijesekara	
Aalim Saeed-Tirmizi	Apologies	Lily Court	Apologies
Adelina Suslikova	Apologies	Lizzie Hunt, Treasurer	
Aditya Srinivasan		Lukas Abromavicius, Vice Chair	Apologies
Aidan Hirst	Present	Mackenzie Willis	Apologies
Alex Jin		Mark Bielikov	
Ali Esad Kutuloglu		Max Oser	
Alice Warren		Max Rowland	
Alicia Ho		Maximilian David	
Allegra Delli Roccoli	Present	Megan Philips	
Angelos Maroulis	Present	Milly Anscomb	Present
Arina Evtushenko	Apologies	Franz Lahura-Sturm	
Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, Chair	Apologies	Mirabel Poulson	
Audrina Chan		Morgan Ingerfield	
Ayan Motwani		Naima Karki	Present
Benjamin		Nelly Schiefer	Present
Caspar Tillieux		Pendar Ahmadvazir	Present
Catherine Barden de Leon		Penelope Muccino	Apologies
Charlotte Bagoee		Penelope Rowbotham	Present
Chelsey Dai		Poppy-Grace Dixon-Lyon	
Clement Isong		Reuben Foulkes	
Cynthia Chen	Apologies	Rhea Engineer	Apologies
Cyrus Tillieux		Riddley McDermott	Present
Dhriti Pasumarty		Riley Ferguson	
Ethan Cook		Russell Street	
Eva Wang, Social Media Officer	Present	Ryan Zhaeentan	
Finn Chadwick	Present	Sarah Pardasany, Social Media Officer	Present
Franz Lahura-Sturm	Present	Sayeesha Boysen	Apologies
George Kelly	Present	Shinki Yu	
Harry King	Present	Shiv Lamba	
Henry Thomas		Simi Akintoye	
Ines Wang Neto	Apologies	Sofia Vittoria Moschini	Present
Ishwar Sharma	Apologies	Sophia Yu	
Jasper Barnes	Present	Sophie Sheridan	Apologies
John Ng		Summer Chen	Apologies
Joshua Maddox Aquino		Susanna Local	Apologies
Joshua Maretlane	Present	Taani Shukla	Apologies
Julien Beck	Present	Thomas Heregods	
Karam Kandhari		Vihaan Sharma	
Katie Lo		Vyom Bhandari	

In attendance: Linda Larter, MBE- CEO & Town Clerk of Sevenoaks Town Council, Holly Braizer- Deputy Manager of House in the Basement, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

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1 – In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, the Social Media Officers Eva and Sarah Chaired the meeting.

2- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that many of the Sevenoaks School students had exams the following day and would not be attending due to this.

Apologies for absence, as shown, were received and noted.

2 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026

The minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11th of February 2026, were agreed as a true record.

3 - FINANCE REPORT

It was noted that the balance of the Youth Council budget for 2025/26 was £1,101.70

It was also noted that the Youth Council budget would increase by £500 at the start of the new financial year (1st April 2026).

The Charity funds raised by the last Youth Council would be paid to their chosen charity, which would reduce this cost heading to £0.

4 - KOOTH MENTAL HEALTH

The Youth Council received a video from Kooth Mental Health outlining who they are and how they support young people. The following points were noted:

- It was noted that Kooth is a website system that is free and anonymous for young people to access.
- It can be accessed by typing [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) into the browser.
- They have a range of different resources to help young people manage their mental health, such as articles, one-to-one talks and forums.
- They run 24/7 for 365 days of the year.
- You can chat to a member of their team from 12 pm -10 pm Monday to Friday and 6 pm- 10 pm Saturday and Sunday

It was noted that many of the Youth councillors present at the meeting had not heard of Kooth before. The Chairs noted that they could help promote Kooth via the Youth Council's social media by sharing their posters and other elements. It was noted that the youth councillors were interested in creating some short-form content for social media to help promote Kooth.

The Youth Councillors also noted that they could take some of the posters into their schools to help promote this. It was agreed this would be via the volunteer group at HitB.

5 – YOUTH COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

The Youth Councillors received the mental health report that was carried out by the previous Youth Council. The youth council discussed ways that they could help to progress some of the ideas put forward in the report. They came up with the following:

- Promoting Kooth to Schools.
- Holding an event during Mental Health Awareness Week. It was suggested this could be held at HitB. However, it was noted that HitB is a small space and might be better to have this somewhere else, like the Bat and Ball Centre, where there is more room.
- Promoting HitB as a safe space for young people to go to after school.

HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

The Youth Council heard from Holly Brazier, the Deputy Manager for House in the Basement, that the last two months had been very busy, seeing more young people over the course of the month than they had previously.

Holly also reported that the Open Mic Night events had been going well, with the next one set for the 24th of April.

It was noted that on Thursday evenings, Daren, the Manager of House in the Basement and Youth Workers from Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust have been taking the new STC Community Bus to Greatness Recreation Ground for detached youth work.

6 - CLIMATE FAIR

The Youth Councillors heard that last year, the Youth Council had a stall at the Climate fair on Saturday, the 2nd of May 2026, where they handed out bracelets they had made with the message “Stay Green” on, as well as business cards printed on seed paper that had information about the Youth Council.

The Youth Councillors agreed that they would like to have a stall at the event and to carry on with the bracelets with the same message, though it was agreed that it would say “Stay Green 2026” and information would be printed on seed paper.

7 - THE VINE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The Youth Council received the report from Kent Police regarding the renewal of the Vine Public Spaces Protection Order and was asked what their thoughts were on renewing it for another two years. They were informed this had been put in place two years ago due to a spate of Anti-Social Behaviour at the Vine. It was mentioned that since it was put in place, the police have rarely enforced it.

Many of the youth councillors were in favour of the renewal of the Protection order; some asked if similar Protection orders could be applied to other green spaces in the town, like

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Buckhurst Environmental Park by Knole, due to concerns that placing it solely at the Vine could and has displaced the gatherings to these areas that are harder to police.

It was noted that the youth council would like to know the number of people that would be counted as a gathering.

The Youth Council also thought that there should be posters on the Vine about littering and smashing bottles.

RESOLVED: To recommend the renewal of the PSPO for the Vine Garden for another two years.

8 - STC Youth Services Social Value Report (2024-2026)

The Youth Council noted that at the Annual Town Meeting held on the 9th of March 2026, the question was asked by a young person: “What is the Town Council doing for youth this year?” Linda Larter, the Town Clerk for Sevenoaks Town Council, informed the Councillors that the Youth Services Committee had requested this report to outline all of the different youth activities and Grants from different organisations that the Town Council Supports.

9 - Upcoming events

It was noted that the following events were scheduled to take place:

Event Title	Date of Event	Time	Location
<u>Great British Spring Clean</u>	27 March 2026	10.30 am	Pontoise Close TN13 3ES
		2 pm	Millpond Wood TN14 5AF
<u>Vegan market</u>	4 April 2026	10.30 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Open Mic Night @ HitB</u>	24 April 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
<u>Climate Fair</u>	2 May 2026	10 am - 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Rock Painting for South and Southeast in Bloom</u>	3 May 2026	12.30 pm -2 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Professor Slugs House of Bugs Theatre show</u>		2 pm - 4 pm	
<u>Health and Well-being Fair</u>	30 May 2026	9.30 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens
<u>Sevenoaks Business Show</u>	5 June 2026	10 am- 2 pm	Bat & Ball Centre TN14 5DN

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<u>Open Mic Night @ HitB</u>	26 June 2026	5.30 pm- 7.30 pm	House in the Basement Youth Cafe
<u>Art on the Vine</u>	27 June 2026	10 am	The Vine Gardens
<u>Family Fun Day</u>	4 August 2026	10.30 am- 1.30 pm	Greatness Recreation Ground
<u>Street Food Festival</u>	29 August 2026	10 am- 4 pm	The Vine Gardens

There being no further business the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated