

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Community Centre User Group Meeting held at
The Sevenoaks Community Centre on Wednesday 10th April 2019**

Meeting commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting concluded: 7.32 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Simon Raikes, Chairman	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Council / Stag
Cllr Rachel Parry	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council
Allan de Turberville	PROBUS
Mr Bryan Miles	Tea Dance
Mrs Pamela Homes	Arts Society, Knole
Janet Davies, Trustee	Sevenoaks Day Nursery
Mr Bryan Richardson	Sevenoaks District Arts Council
Linda Larter	Sevenoaks Town Council
Janet Chambers	Sevenoaks Friendship Centre
Richard Baxter	U3A

17. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Maxine Chakowa, Cllr Roderick Hogarth, Cllr Robert Piper, David Williams (PROBUS), Adrienne Brewin (Breathe Easy), Phyllis Smith (Family Anonymous), Cate Pruce (Hollybush Montessori)

18. Requests for Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensations from Councillors.

19. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declaration of Interests from Councillors.

20. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Centre User Group held on 6th December 2018.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes were a true record of the meeting and to be signed by the Chairman.

21. Bat & Ball Centre Development

The User Group received a verbal report from the Town Clerk and noted that tenders were due on 15th April 2019 and scheduled for work on the new build to commence on 1st June 2019.

It was noted that since the previous meeting the Town Council had been successful in obtaining a £1.2m grant from the Sevenoaks District Council Community Investment Levy fund towards the new Centre.

The Sevenoaks Day Nursery new buildings would be craned on to site on the first weekend of June 2019.

It was understood that most hirers had obtained alternative accommodation from 1st June 2019. All hirers had been reminded that they needed to remove any items in storage prior to that date.

22. Bat & Ball Station Building

Most of the project had been completed and snagging works were currently being undertaken. The building café had been open and community rooms available for hire from 11th March 2019. An Evaluation Report was currently being finalized and draft copies circulated.

Works to the access ramp to Platform 1 from the community centre site would commence on 29th April 2019.

It was also noted that a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) was being developed. The CRP had the following key aims:

- Bring together five separate stations (Swanley to Sevenoaks) and Darent Valley Partnership to create the scenic rail route – Samuel Palmer Line
- Share promotion to encourage passengers to use the station to visit local tourism attractions
- Increase footfall to local tourism attractions at each station
- Create a distinctive ‘brand’ for the line
- Link the use of the train to other non-car form of transport e.g. walking and cycling
- Raise awareness of local heritage relating to the Samuel Palmer artist.

23. Feedback from Hirers

Those present provided the following feedback on the alternative arrangements they had made during the construction of the new centre:

PROBUS	Had to moved to Kippington Church, noted limited car parking
Senior Action Forum	Had ad hoc meetings and was able to use other venues
Sevenoaks District Arts Forum	Using Luggage Room at Bat & Ball Station
Arts Society, Knole	Using St Nicholas Church
Sevenoaks Friendship Centre	Bowls Club at Hollybush Queried whether it would still be possible to use community centre for free car parking for their

	annual outing? Town Councils officers to review once building contractor appointed.
Tea Dance	Stag, Plaza Room
U3A	St Nicholas Church

It was also noted that five regular hirers not present at the meeting had relocated to the Bat & Ball Station building.

All hirers were reminded that any items stored in the Centre needed to be removed by 31st May 2019.

Sevenoaks Day Nursery were trying to complete the main elements of the installation of their facilities prior to a contractor starting on the Centre development. The buildings were being craned on to the site on 1st and 2nd June 2019, the site would be closed to the public. Fitting out of the buildings would then take place to be operational for September 2019. During this time the nursery would continue in current buildings. A temporary walkway along the Travis Perkins boundary fence would be constructed for pedestrians accessing the nursery. Sevenoaks Town Council had extended the lease area to the Sevenoaks Day Nursery to enable them to retain the Club Room on the condition that this was also shared with a similar preschool organisation as required. During the construction of the Centre Hollybush Montessori would be using the facility during term time. Sevenoaks Day Nursery had also been successful in obtaining a Community Infrastructure Levy grant from Sevenoaks District Council.

24. Next Meeting and Progress Reports

The next meeting was scheduled for December 2020. During the construction period Progress Reports would be distributed to the Community Centre User Group members.

25. Press Releases

It was agreed not to issue a Press Release.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed

Chairman

Dated