

**Meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 3rd July 2019
At Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber**

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Roshni Agarwal		Ola Kujawinska	<i>Apologies</i>
Eva Azazoglu		Emily Mahoney	<i>Apologies</i>
Alexander Black		Megan Ng	
Tom Chapman	<i>Present</i>	Louisa Phillips	<i>Apologies</i>
Sam Chard		Michael Roberts	<i>Present</i>
Phoebe Crichtlow	<i>Present</i>	Rose Spurling	<i>Present</i>
Samuel Crawford		Gabby Tan	
Tasha Dambacher (chairman)	<i>Apologies</i>	Loic Thiry	
Ronnie Day		Amy Vickers	
Charlotte Foulds - (Vice Chairman)	<i>Apologies</i>	Amber Warrender	<i>Apologies</i>
Oscar Goodwin	<i>Present</i>	Jacob Watson	<i>Present</i>
Matthias Jammot – (Treasurer)		Amber Warrender	<i>Apologies</i>
Meera Jassi		Katie Willis	<i>Apologies</i>
Ishwar Sharma			

In Attendance: Cllrs Canet, Eyre, Raikes, Parry, Mrs Parry, Shea and Town Clerk

Tom Chapman Chaired the meeting.

46. Apologies for Absence

Received from Amber Warrender, Katie Willis, and resignation noted from Tom Chapman.

47. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 22nd May 2019

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

48. Finance Reports

It was noted that the finance for the general youth council account (£1,159.20) and charity account (£0) had not changed. However, there would be some expenditure due soon in relation to commitment towards funding the Skateboard Day in August and Live on the Vine.

49. House in the Basement Youth Café

The following report was noted from the Youth Café Manager.

Opening times had been increased on Wednesdays and Fridays to 4-9pm and Saturday from 3-9pm.

We have also set up new clubs including Tuesday Club SEN (Special Educational Needs). The Chess club that has been going strongly for several months now, bringing new Young People into Hitb, and becoming regular attendees. Thanks to the Council and other organisations for supplying the necessary funding for the lovely chess equipment. The pool tournament on the first Friday of the month had been bringing in a lot of new Young People, which are of a higher age range. The Stag had very kindly supported the pool tournament by providing complimentary cinema tickets to the winner.

HitB had also purchased some beautiful drawing equipment and some adult colouring books, which created a nice and relaxed finish for the session. It meant we can all sit down and discuss what had happened in the week, topics in the news or just a stress-free hour with no technology.

Numbers seem to have increased in the last few months making HitB have a real buzz when you enter! There also seems to be a rise in numbers regarding Young People who are interested in Volunteering with our 8-week program we offer.

Open spaces staff have planted lots of beautiful vegetables and herbs, which we hope to be able to use in HitB when ripe enough! In preparation to Sevenoaks In Bloom. It really brightens our Café up and makes a great first impression! HitB is still regularly receiving Fare share, using this in our own meals or supporting the YP of HitB.

Also, thanks to the council for supplying HitB with a new work phone, thus making it much easier to set up new trending social media accounts or just getting in contact with fellow colleagues.

50. Parliament Visit

On 17th June 2019 the following seven members of Sevenoaks Youth Council visited the House of Parliament for a tour – Ronnie Day, Ola Kujawinska, Sam Crawford, Ishwar Sharma, Gabby Tan, Jacob Watson and Megan Ng. They were accompanied by Cllr Rachel Parry, Chairman of the Youth Services Committee and Linda Larter, Chief Executive from Sevenoaks Town Council.

Sir Michael Fallon said: *“I was delighted to host the Sevenoaks Youth Council in Parliament on Monday 17th June. They were able to have a tour of both Chambers and trace the steps of politicians. The youth councillors posed some good but tough questions and I wish them well in their studies and future careers.”*

The tour was followed by a 45-minute private meeting with Sir Michael Fallon in which a robust question and answer session took place. Below is a precis of the questions asked:

	Youth Cllrs	Question	Sir Michael Fallon – response
1	Sam Crawford	Do you support the proposal for a junction for M26 to A21?	Aware that a new junction whilst helping some local communities has a negative impact on others. Would prefer lorries to use Junction 3, with improved signage.
2	Ronnie Day	You are on record as voting Remain and against No Deal, so why are you backing Boris?	Nobody wants a no deal, not ideal. Need to prepare in case of a no deal and be able to leave in an orderly way. Boris is not aiming for a No Deal. Practical details need to be addressed.
3	Jacob Watson	Is it possible to have more transport policies to encourage people to use public transport? For example, students who remain at schools after 16 not having to pay adult fares.	Transport costs are decided by Kent County Council. He was aware of the pressure on 16+ students and would try to help where possible when budgets were reviewed.
4	Ola Kujawska	How will Brexit impact small towns such as Sevenoaks?	Brexit will impact everyone. There has been 40 years of trading relationships with little bureaucracy and paperwork. This will change which could impact goods prices. There may also be an impact on Kent in relation to congestion from ferries. The UK is a net contributory country some countries are net beneficiaries e.g. Poland.
5	Gaby Tan	How can more be done to tackle the current environmental crisis and make the UK carbon neutral?	Current initiatives for commitments for carbon neutral are very much welcomed. Need to be aware that some green taxes can place disproportionate burden on those with low incomes. Can also put businesses into unfair competition. The issue of removing single use plastic must be high on the agenda.
6	Megan Ng	What are the main challenges now?	Current and potential conflicts creating instability. Attacks on ships in the Gulf as an example. Terrorism. Economic collapse of international trading system. Worldwide political engagement and democracy in retreat.
7	Ishwar Sharma	I understand that in Croydon some historical churches are being redeveloped into housing and offices, how can they be protected.	There is a system for Listing Buildings. Anyone can do this to protect buildings.

8	Cllr Rachel Parry	What is the current thinking on the future of social care?	There needs to be a long-term solution for future generations. People are living longer and not saving for old age and future care. The current system sees some not paying for social care in old age and others having to sell their homes.
9	Jacob Watson	Why did the UK host a visit from President Trump?	The UK have always had a close relationship with the US and had important alliances for example in military and terrorism intelligence. President Trump was elected and represented the US and was invited in that capacity.
10	Ronnie Day	Do you think the BBC has a left bias?	No, I don't think so, although some people who work for them might. The Licence Fee needs to be reconsidered – it is an archaic system. It is unlikely that your generation will be viewing tv in the same way as in the past. However, believe it is still important to have a public service broadcasting system which is not governed by advertisers.

At the end of the meeting Sir Michael Fallon was thanked for his time and there then followed the opportunity for photographs.



Gabby Tan handing the leaflet on Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge to Sir Michael Fallon MP. Gabby had designed the local and assisted with the wording.



51. Events

a) Live on the Vine 19th July 2019, 6.00 – 8.30 p.m.

1.	Promotion	Humberts Estate Agency boards in various locations around the town. Leaflets Social media.
2.	Technical Equipment & Technician	Provided by Stag
3.	HitB / Youth Council stall	Promote pool and chess events at HitB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool competition, winner stays on, 2 Stag Cinema tickets as prize. (Tom Chapman) • Chess competition, winners stays on, 2 Stag Cinema tickets as prize (Jacob Watson)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lolly game • Art / colouring <p>Promotional leaflets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HitB Youth Café • Youth Council • Plastic Free Sevenoaks • Skateboard event • Level Up Games exchange <p>HitB Pop Up Banner</p> <p>Volunteers needed to help.</p>
4	Youth Strike 4 Climate Stall	BYO T-shirt and bag-printing activity at the stall, possibly badge-making too, as well as leaflets about our work and upcoming events.
5	Photo Booth	To have festival background.
6	Additional stands?	<p>Festival Face Painting</p> <p>Friendship Bracelets</p> <p>SAYT – Art project?</p> <p>Hope Church Youth Club</p> <p>Bessel Green Church Youth Club</p> <p>Air Cadets</p> <p>Police</p>
7	Timetable	Bands / singers to perform for 10 minutes allowing 5 minutes for changeover (no drum kits)
	6.00 p.m.	Mayor and Chairman of Youth Council to open event
	6.05 p.m.	Michael Watson
	6.25 p.m.	Emma
	6.45 p.m.	Annabelle
	7.05 p.m.	Hope
	7.25 p.m.	Toby

	7.40 p.m.	Lily
	8.00 p.m.	Robbie White

All youth councillors were asked to help if possible.

b) Greatness Skate Park Event, Saturday 3rd August 2019, 12.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Daryl Dominguez and Jack Clark booked to be in attendance.

52. Date of Next Meeting – 11th September 2019

Agreed agenda to include:

Invitation to representative of Youth Council charity to attend.

Discussion of Debate event previously proposed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.