

SEVENOAKS YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2009 AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, SEVENOAKS

Present: Frances Ainsworth, Sarika Breeze, Emma Brown, Charlie Conn, Edmund Davies, Tamanna Miah, Naomi Sparks, George Pearce, Daniel Sabin

In Attendance: Cllr Merylyn Canet, Cllr Andrew Eyre, Cllr Richard Parry, Cllr Robert Piper, Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting Reg Oakley talked to the Youth Councillors about cycling in Sevenoaks and requested ideas for improvements to facilities.

In the absence of Heather Barnett, Charlie Conn Chaired the Meeting.

16. Apologies for Absence

Heather Barnett, Amy Borrowman, George Payne, Roberta Stephens.

17. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th December 2008.

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting were a true record.

18. Financial Report

The Youth Council had not spent any money to date and therefore its balance remained at £1,000.

19. Cycling in Sevenoaks

Current and potential routes

The following areas were suggested as a good idea for cycle lane / routes:-

- Daniel Tubs Hill up to Seale
- George around Riverhead to avoid traffic off A21
- Edmund around the station.

Involvement in Cycling Forum

Reg Oakley explained that the new Cycling Forum was for like minded people campaigning, providing information, and focus for improved cycling facilities. Reg Oakley suggested Youth Councillors viewed the 'Spokes' website which was for the East Kent Cycle Forum. Sarika said that she would like to join the forum.

Provision of Cycle Racks

Youth Councillors thought it would be a good idea for cycle racks to be installed and suggested the following initial locations:-

- Station
- Town centre around Blighs

20. Provision of Youth Café

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council had hoped to open a Youth Café within the Stag and this had been discussed previously with the Youth Council.

In order to proceed with this an architect was needed to talk to Youth Councillors and produce draft plans which could then be publicised for more ideas – through schools and newspapers etc.

The Youth Council could apply for funding from Kent County Council for an Architect to develop ideas with the Youth Council for the Youth Café at the Stag: Community Arts Centre.

George said this was a good idea, the youth café would be ideal.

Naomi asked how much was needed for the architect. The Town Clerk replied £5,000.

Francis asked how the building costs would be funded. The Town Clerk replied that a further grant called 'Myspace' would be applied for the building costs.

It was generally agreed that the Youth Café should be open after school, in the evenings and at the weekend. The Youth Council would at a later stage prepare a questionnaire and distribute it.

RESOLVED: Sevenoaks Youth Council to apply for funding for the architect.

21. The Disney Factor – 7th February 2009.

Naomi was thanked for producing the poster. Arrangements for the event were discussed including

Times
2 – 4 p.m.

Responsibilities

All Youth Councillors were asked to be there one hour before it started. Youth Councillors were also asked to publicise the event as widely as possible either by the posters or via internet. Emma suggested that Youth Councillors could stand outside the Stag and hand out leaflets. George said that the poster needed to be included on the Town Council's website.

Judges would mark each act 1 – 10 on talent and appearance. Judges scores would then be added up. Judges would email each other to discuss this further.

The Town Clerk would talk to Stag staff to arrange equipment for playing CDs. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to bring a laptop to access internet music.

Prizes

The Chairman had emailed Cllr Piper and requested 30 tickets for the Stag cinema, Cllr Piper had agreed to this. Cllr Piper was thanked for his support.

The following was agreed for prizes

First Prize	6 tickets
Second Prize	3 tickets
Third Prize	1 ticket

All entries would receive some sweets.

Entries

No entries had been received to date.

22. Freedom Pass

All Youth Councillors had been provided with information about the Freedom Pass. Cllr Parry informed the Youth Council that the Freedom Pass cost £50 and then enabled young people up to and including the age of 16 to use bus services at no extra cost. The system would start operating in Sevenoaks in June 2009. Cllr Parry then answered Youth Councillors questions.

Charlie asked if Youth Councillors received a discount? - no.

Edmund asked if the Freedom Pass could be used on trains? – only buses.

Daniel asked if the pass was for one year – yes.

23. Exercise

Emma asked if a similar scheme to the Freedom Pass could be created for gyms. Young people between 14 – 16 were being told to exercise for one hour per day. Charlie suggested that a Dance Machine should be installed at the Youth Café when it was built. Francis suggested Dance Mat tournaments.

24. Music Events

Emma asked why events such as SNAP were no longer held? Cllr Eyre responded that young people had lost interest in the event and said that young band nights were held at the Sevenoaks Community Centre – details would be distributed. Emma said that she had been to good music events for young people elsewhere and would like them to happen in Sevenoaks. Emma was asked to find out some details about the events and bring the information back to the Youth Council.

25. Skateboard Shop

Daniel asked if it was known why Bikes, Bikes, Bikes were not stocking skateboards and equipment – George agreed to contact them to discuss this.

26. Jobs for Young People

Emma said it was hard for young people aged between 14 – 16 to get a part time job and asked if people could think about this.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

Signed Dated
Chairman