

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Youth Services Committee held on 9th September 2020
Held via Zoom and Livestreamed on YouTube

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.04 p.m.

Cllr Rachel Parry, Chairman	Present		Cllr Claire Shea, Vice-Chairman	Present
Cllr Keith Bonin	Present		Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Apologies		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Apologies
Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Present		Cllr Edward Waite	Apologies
Charlotte Ede, West Kent Communities	Apologies		Sarah Gaunt, Kent County Council	Present
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Present		Caroline Berry, SAYT	Apologies

In attendance: Cllr Merylyn Canet, Cllr Richard Parry (to 7.10pm), Town Clerk, Senior Committee Clerk and House in the Basement Youth Café Manager.

Public Question Time There were no representations received from Members of the Public.

175. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

176. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

177. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest at the meeting.

178. Minutes

(i) Minutes of the Youth Services Sub Committee held on 12th February 2020

RESOLVED: to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2020 as a true record.

(ii) Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held on 12th February 2020

RESOLVED: To note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 12th February 2020.

179 House in the Basement Youth Café

(i) Update Report

It was noted that the Youth Café had been closed since the Covid-19 lockdown commenced and that the staff had been furloughed.

Chris Essex, Manager of House in the Basement Café, advised that the Café was reopening on Friday 11th September but would be operating differently. Numbers would be limited and young people would need to book in advance; at the moment this was on a first come first served basis which would be reviewed as demand grows. Rules would be in place regarding social distancing, hand washing, use of equipment etc.

It was noted the new Government guidelines would be issued following the Prime Minister's Statement earlier today restricting social gatherings to 6 people.

(ii) Finance Report to 31st July 2020

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the Youth Café to 31st July 2020 be noted.

180. Sevenoaks Youth Council

(i) Youth Council Update

It was noted that the Youth Council 2018-2020 had been due to hold its final meeting this evening; unfortunately due to the public health guidelines arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, this was not able to take place. The Town Clerk had written to Youth Councillors thanking them for their service and celebrating their achievements.

Given continuing uncertainty around face to face meetings and the additional challenges facing young people returning to school, elections for the next Youth Council had been postponed to the New Year 2021.

(ii) Youth Council Finance Report

RESOLVED: That the Income and Expenditure reports for the Youth Council and its charity to 31st July 2020 be noted.

181. Youth Grants

It was noted that, following adjustments in respect of the Community Resilience Fund, the Youth Outreach 2020/21 balance stood at £3,811. Consideration was given to a grant application received.

RESOLVED:

That a grant request be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) as follows:

Grant Ref No.	Organisation Name & Charity Reg No if applicable	Purpose of Award	Grant Application	Grant Approved
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival	First prize offered in the Young Musician of the Year Competition 2021	£1000	£600

182. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council

Sarah Gaunt reported that her team began working from home during lockdown and recommenced street work mid-July. There had been 3 street sessions in Sevenoaks town, in Greatness Park, the Vine and Hollybush area, meeting about 40 young people. Regular updates were maintained on FaceBook and Instagram.

The Sevenoaks District Assembly had been officially launched in July and a virtual youth conference was planned for November 2020. A key project was to research what young people understood by hate crime, what it is, and what happens if you report it.

Sarah commented on the range of virtual support available and also the perhaps surprising fact that a lot of young people did not want to use this, preferring face to face contact. There could be a range of reasons for this including not having a private space at home.

(ii) SAYT

Caroline Berry was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report advising that the two youth workers had maintained their links with young people using the internet and more recently by meeting in small groups, maintaining national guidelines. Some one-to-one mentoring had taken place, together with some low key summer activities.

Sarah Gaunt added that SAYT were also involved in a project with the Kenward Trust and Community Safety Team to create an art work/sculpture from the nitrus oxide canisters collected in the District over the Summer by the police, in order to raise awareness of the issues surrounding its use.

(iii) SDC – Community Safety Team

Maxine Quinton reported that the team had been working closely with the Police, KCC, Kenward Trust and SAYT regarding the rise in anti-social behaviour. There had been a number of hotspots in the District, particularly around open water e.g. Chipstead Lake. A large number of young people had been coming into the area from places such as Catford, Lewisham, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Paddock Wood. Police had been monitoring the railway stations on Friday and Saturday evenings. Dispersal orders were in place Fridays and Saturdays to deal with any groups congregating and causing issues. Fortunately the level of incidents had declined in the last few weeks.

Councillors thanked the Community Safety Team for all the time and resources they had put in to deal with the issues.

(iv) West Kent Communities:

Charlotte Ede was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report advising of the Zoom sessions delivered across the District during July. Councillors commented that it would be useful to know how many of the young people involved were from Sevenaoks Town. Sarah Gaunt commented that they were open sessions available to anyone in the District and that data was not readily available.

The Committee noted that the planned Mental Health Awareness course requested by the Youth Council and Youth Café members (funded by WKHA) had been cancelled due to Covid-19 and expressed the hope that it could be held in the future.

183. Westerham Sea Cadets, Royal Naval Unit Review

The Committee noted and congratulated the Westerham Sea Cadets Unit on the good report.

184. Press Releases: None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed

Chairman

Dated