

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee
Held on 8th September 2021 at the Bat & Ball Centre

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.50 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Edward Waite, Chairman	Apologies		Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Present
Cllr Rachel Parry, Vice-Chairman	Present		Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present
In the chair for this meeting				
Cllr Nick Busvine	Present		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet (ex officio)	Apologies		Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present			
Co-opted Members:				
Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present		Sarah Gaunt, Kent County Council	Present
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Present		Caroline Berry, SAYT	Present

Substitute	For
Cllr Tony Clayton	Cllr Edward Waite

In attendance: Cllr Richard Parry, Town Clerk, Senior Committee Clerk, Intern

Representations received from Members of the Public: none

246. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

247. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

248. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Eyre declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 – Youth Grant Application, Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival Young Musician of the Year. He took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.

249. Notes of Report to Youth Services Committee held on 30th June 2021

RESOLVED: to receive and accept the Notes of the Report to the Youth Services Committee on 30th June 2021 as a true record.

250. House in the Basement Youth Café

(i) Update Report

It was noted that attendance numbers at the House in the Basement were quite low. It was anticipated that numbers would increase following the start of the new school term.

The success of the songwriting course held in July was noted.

(ii) Finance Report to 31st July 2021

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café to 31st July 2021 be noted.

251. Sevenoaks Youth Council

Progress on recruitment for the new Youth Council was noted. Five young people had registered so far, representing three schools. Publicity packs, including posters and flyers would be sent to schools and local youth groups this week together with an offer from the Town Clerk to speak at school assemblies.

The Mayor's discussions with young people and the plans to hold a presentation evening in October were noted. It was suggested that a date for the presentation(s) be agreed as soon as possible.

The Committee discussed the use of social media to reach young people. It was suggested that the Town Council Instagram account be reactivated.

Richard Dowling reported that putting a QR code (directing to website) on to flyers that could be handed out was effective.

It was agreed that content on the Youth Council would be sent to the co-opted partners to share on their social media.

252. Youth Grant Application

It was noted that the Youth Outreach 2021/22 budget was £3,887. Consideration was given to a grant application received.

The Committee noted that in 2020 the first prize offered in the Young Musician of the Year Competition was raised significantly from £600 to £1000. In considering previous grant applications at this level, the Town Council had agreed to contribute £600 towards the prize. However, the Committee felt that following the cancellation of last year's event (and return of the grant) due to the Covid pandemic, this year's event would be a reboot, and to support that, a £1000 grant should be awarded on this occasion.

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 2022	£1000	£1000

253. Sevenoaks District Council Pledge: To Reconnect Kent Children and Young People

The Committee noted the pledge made by Sevenoaks District Council to the Kent County Council initiative aimed at getting young people back to enjoying activities and opportunities they took part in before Covid, and to try new things along the way. It was noted that the programme would run until the end of August 2022.

It was agreed to invite Kelly Webb to attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide more detail of the activities/actions, in particular those in Sevenoaks Town. It was suggested that some quantitative data would be useful regarding reactions to the initiatives.

254. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

Sarah Gaunt reported that not as much street based work was happening as she would have liked, but that there had been five visits to Sevenoaks since the last meeting. The Wednesday team had stopped for the summer but would restart next week for 6 weeks. The areas focused on were usually The Vine, Greatness, Hollybush, the Nature Reserve, or where there were reports of young people gathering. It was noted that the aim of these visits was to build relationships to open conversations about why they were gathering, to provide information and guidance and to see if there were any behavioural issues.

A workshop had been delivered to Sevenoaks Preparatory School on youth democracy.

Sarah advised that the work of her team was now more targeted to families supported by Social Services, the Early Help Unit and Youth Justice.

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Caroline Berry advised that SAYT was still operating with one part-time youth worker, with the support of volunteers. It had been a very busy summer, providing a lot of fun activities, including visits to the skatepark and a trip to the seaside for 8 young people.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Maxine Quinton was pleased to report that there had not been too many incidents in Sevenoaks Town. The current hotspots were the Environmental Park, the Town Car Park and the Leisure Centre. PCSOs were patrolling those areas. Information regarding cars gathering had been obtained and warning letters sent; if they continued S.59 notices could be issued.

Young people gathering and noise nuisance at the Environmental Park was a particular issue for residents of Burlington Mews: they had been encouraged to call the police. The Community Safety Team was discussing with Knole the possibility of closing the park at night.

The Committee noted that there had been reports of cars racing at night near Wickes. Maxine advised that there had been a few similar reports and police patrols were lingering in those areas: there had not been any further reports lately.

The Committee enquired whether the issue with nitrous oxide canisters had disappeared. Maxine advised that it had not disappeared but was significantly reduced. Maxine undertook to investigate what had happened in relation to the proposed art project to be made from the discarded canisters.

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard Dowling, Youth Services Manager, reported that detached work had taken place with the Fun Days.

The 8 - 12 project had reopened in Seve neo oaks; 9 young people had attended the first session and it was anticipated that there would be referrals from schools over the next few weeks. Prior to the pandemic, attendance had averaged 20-25.

255. Press Release

It was agreed that a Press Release be issued regarding the grant award to the Three Arts Festival.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated