

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 23rd March 2022**

at Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.50 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Kate Willis, Chairman	Present	Maya Goodrich	Present
Anna Tarasheva, Vice-Chairman	Apologies	Valentina Groves	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, Treasurer	Absent	Darcy Hogg	Apologies
Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Isabella McGlynn	Absent
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Maximilian Pound	Absent
Emilia Britain	Apologies	Vincent Rands-Webb	Apologies
Jasmine Geer	Present	Mia Stack	Present

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Alison Futtit, Senior Committee Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Cllr Andrew Eyre; Iona Green, Heritage Engagement Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 9th February 2022

The Youth Council was reminded of the invitation to attend the House in the Basement Youth Café more often, and to share information with their friends and peers.

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 9th February 2022.

3. Finance Report

It was noted that the current balance of the Youth Council budget was £1,834.60.

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

The Youth Council noted the report provided by Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB. It was noted that 12 new young people had attended and was suggested that it would be useful to ask what prompted them to come, where they had heard about it.

It was noted that the SEN group in particular was doing really well; the young people were enjoying attending and there had been an additional benefit in that parents had formed an informal support group.

Youth Councillors were reminded that some of them had offered to help at the Youth Café and were asked to get in touch with Daren.

It was noted that HitB had taken part in a trip to Bewl Water in the half-term and had arranged a Skate Park event for the Easter holidays.

5. **Youth Survey**

It was noted that the following questions under consideration by the Youth Council had been added to the Youth Survey being undertaken by HitB to explore the effects of Covid on young people:

- What is the main problem young people face in Sevenoaks?
- What one improvement would you make to Sevenoaks?
- What, in your opinion, should the Youth Council do for young people in Sevenoaks?

The Youth Council noted the responses received, together with a letter from Solefield School outlining ideas submitted by pupils via their Eco Committee. It was agreed that the feedback from the Survey and Solefield School would be considered at the next meeting, when the Youth Councillors would be looking at the list of things they wanted to do, identifying priorities and starting to draw up an action plan.

It was noted that a lot of suggestions related to more clubs and facilities, including music. The Youth Council queried whether it would be possible to relaunch Open Mic Night at HitB. The Town Clerk commented that we would need to find a musician to help.

Youth Councillors commented on the priorities they would like to explore:

- Reducing litter
- More litter bins in town
- Recycling bins
- Rewilding Sevenoaks
- Raising awareness of services and activities available for young people
- Helping young people to find volunteering and work experience opportunities
- Mental health/wellbeing support (could be combined with activities)
- More cycle paths
- More outdoor gym equipment in parks
- Reducing traffic speed to make roads safer for cycling

6. **Update on Youth Mentor Project**

The flow chart showing the full offering from the Youth Mentor Project was noted. The project was looking at the impact of the pandemic on young people, with the aim of offering support to young people who needed it, and to encourage a return to activities. In addition to the Skate Park event at Easter, HitB was arranging a trip to the indoor Skate Park in Hastings.

7. **Skate Park Event**

The details of the Skate Park Fun Day on Wednesday 6th April 2022, 11.00am – 4.00pm, were noted. Youth Councillors agreed to share the information with their friends and peers.

8. **Greening Sevenoaks Survey**

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council was undertaking a lot of work in relation to climate change. In order to obtain a base line against which progress could be measured, a Greening Sevenoaks Survey had been launched. The Youth Council agreed to ask family, friends and their school colleagues to complete.

The survey was available via the following link or QR code:
<https://qrco.de/bcrR02>



9. Appointment of Representatives to Other Bodies

Invitations for Youth Council representatives to join the following bodies were noted:

- Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve Working Group
- Sevenoaks Town Council Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
- Sevenoaks Town Council's Youth Services Committee

Youth Councillors interested in these roles were asked to contact Alison Futtit.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was requested that the scheduled date of 18th May 2022 be moved to the following week, 25th May, due to exams taking place.

Meeting to be held in House in the Basement Youth Café.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.