

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council  
Held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

at Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN133QG

**Meeting Commenced:** 6.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 7.00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Henry Barden de Leon	Apologies	Darcy Hogg	Apologies
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Isabella McGlynn	Apologies
Emilia Britain	Apologies	Max Pound	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Present	Vince Rands-Webb	Apologies
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Apologies	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Von Ming Fung Chu	Apologies	Aanya Sidhu	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, <b>Treasurer</b>	Present	Mia Stack	Present
Neil Gandhi	Present	Anna Tarasheva, <b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Apologies
Jasmine Geer	Apologies	Katie Willis, <b>Chairman</b>	Present
Maya Goodrich	Apologies	Torsa Younus	Apologies
Valentina Groves	Apologies		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Cllr Andrew Eyre; Andy Watson, Kenwood Trust; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Received as shown above.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

The Youth Council noted previously agreed projects.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

**3. Finance Report**

It was noted that the Youth Council Budget in the agenda did not include the £500 spent on the inflatable dart board

**RESOLVED:** That the current balance shown for the Youth Council budget be amended to reflect the spend on the inflatable dart board.

**4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)**

**RESOLVED:** To note the report of Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB.

**5. Talk from Kenwood Trust**

The Youth Council received a talk from Andy Watson from Kenwood Trust talking about who Kenwood Trust are and what they are doing in the community. He explained some of the key problems they tend to interact with,

- like young people smoking, and mentioned the recent increase in numbers of young people using disposable vape pens. He moved on to mention the effects that smoking can have on the body as well as the effects of people sharing vape pens.
- He then moved on to talk about the different types of drugs that are commonly seen in use by young people like cannabis and edibles,
- He also talked about how he would approach young people and what measures he takes to make them feel more comfortable like placing a physical barrier between himself and the people he is talking to while on outreach.
- He then talked about the Cascade programme that Kenwood Trust work with schools to produce where older students help younger students to understand the risks and dangers around drug use and knife crime.

#### **6. Visit to the House of Commons**

The Youth Council welcomed the opportunity to visit the House of Commons on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October and the chance to talk to the Sevenoaks' MP Laura Trott after the tour. They then heard from the Chairman Katie Willis on her personal experience on the previous visit.

The invitation would be resent to Youth Councillors as a reminder and a request for them to respond as soon as possible to enable arrangements to be made.

#### **7. Offer of CPR Training from Sevenoaks Fire Brigade**

The Youth Council noted that Kent's Fire and Rescue Service had offered free CPR training to the young people of Sevenoaks. The Youth Council discussed the possibility of this being hosted at House in the Basement during the school holidays for drop in sessions for young people that would want to undertake this event.

#### **8. Sevenoaks' Soroptimists: Literacy Day**

The Youth Council were informed that Sevenoaks' Soroptimists had invited some of the Youth Councillors to give a talk on the impact that Covid-19 has had on young people with school work and how they have coped with the different ways of learning that have occurred as a response. It was noted that this event would take place on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at 7.30pm.

#### **9. Youth Council Priorities**

The Youth Council received a list of the previously agreed projects with the current progress that has been carried out on each. Daren Mountain explained that he is currently awaiting a response from the Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) monitoring scheme to help set up a Mental Health Workshop for young people.

It was noted that there is currently a woodland project underway where a lot of trees would need to be planted and any help with this endeavor would be appreciated.

With regards to the aim of encouraging more bees into Sevenoaks, Councillor Eyre advised that he was looking to place a bee hive on top of the Stag Theatre.

The Youth Council reviewed the football table options and decided that it might be best to have a trial run with the first option priced at £129 to see how much use it receives.

Daren explained that during the winter months House in the Basement would be holding a few movie nights and perhaps one or two structured gaming sessions.

**10. E sports Tournaments**

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council had been approached about the possibility of holding an E sports Tournament which was met with enthusiasm from many of the Youth Councilors. However, the point was raised that the types of videos games allowed to be used would need to be considered.

**11. Climate Change School Forum**

The Youth Council noted that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a Climate Change Youth Forum held for schools to talk about what actions they are taking. Youth Councillors were asked to ensure their schools were aware of the event.

**12. Date of Next Meetings**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022
- 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.