

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 2nd November 2022**

In the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

Meeting Commenced: 18.00

Meeting Concluded: 18.51

Present:

Youth Council Members:

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

In attendance: Cllr Dr Merylyn Canet; Alison Futtit , Senior Committee Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Resignation of the Vice-Chairman

The Youth Council received and noted the resignation of Anna Tarasheva from the Youth Council. This had resulted in a vacancy for Vice-Chairman.

Emilia Britain was nominated and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that she be appointed Vice-Chairman.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 7th September 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 7th September 2022.

4. Finance Report

RESOLVED: It was noted that the current balance of the Youth Council budget was £2,334.60, but that £500 of this had been allocated to the purchase of a football table for the House in the Basement Youth Café.

5. House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)

The Youth Council noted the report submitted by Daren Mountain, Manager of HitB Café. Youth Councillors were informed that the Silent Disco held on the 21st of October 2022, in partnership with Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and West Kent Housing Association, had been a successful first event with 30 people in attendance on the night.

It was reported that, when searched on google maps House in the Basement did not come up; Daren agreed to look into this.

6. Talk from Kent Fire and Rescue Service

The Youth Council heard from David Hopkins, an Education Officer for the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. David talked about fire safety in the home and the importance of testing smoke alarms at least once a week. He then spoke about the different career roles and opportunities within the Fire and Rescue Service ranging from roadside collision rescue units, education teams, animal rescue, engineers/mechanics to firefighters. It was mentioned that the Kent Fire and Rescue Service offer apprenticeships for young people who are 18+.

David also advised of the many volunteer opportunities available. ([Our volunteers | Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](#))

The Youth Council asked about what Charities the Kent Fire and Rescue Services work with and were advised that they work with a wide range of charities including Mind.

7. Talk from Kent Wildlife Trust

Unfortunately, the speaker from Kent Wildlife Trust was unable to attend. It was noted that this talk would be arranged for a future meeting.

8. Notes of Climate Change Youth Forum

The Youth Council received the detailed notes from Climate Change Youth Forum. It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Thursday the 1st of December 2022 at 9:30am at the Bat & Ball Centre.

The Chairman Katie Willis and Councillor Dr Canet had attended the Forum and stated that many of the people who were in attendance were very passionate about the issues.

It was noted that Kent County Council was consulting about proposals to implement a 20 mile per hour speed limit in Sevenoaks Town and that a questionnaire was available for people to give their views about the proposed plan ([Sevenoaks Town-wide 20mph speed limit and traffic calming scheme | Let's talk Kent](#))

9. Notes of Visit to House of Commons

The Youth Council received a report on the visit to the House of Commons and the meeting with Laura Trott, Member of Parliament for Sevenoaks. It was noted that those who had gone had enjoyed the experience and would recommend to members of the Youth Council who had not attended, to do so if the opportunity arose in future. Youth Councillors commented that it had been a useful occasion to get their opinions across.

10. Mental Health Workshop Report

Mental Health in Young people was a priority of the Youth Council and Youth Councillors were pleased to receive two offers of professional support to hold a mental health workshop.

It was decided that, in the new year, teachers from West Heath School should be invited to talk to the Youth Council about how to manage their own mental health as well as to support others and know where to get help.

It was noted that the District Council had offered to co-ordinate specific workshops on this topic to generate ideas which could be worked up for the benefit of all local young people. It was requested that some Youth Councillors commit to attending at least one initial workshop. This to be arranged via email.

11. Further business

It was noted that the Youth Council had been invited to write a piece for the Town Crier magazine to showcase the role of the Youth Council and its current priorities.

12. Dates of Next Meeting:

- Wednesday 18th January 2023
- Wednesday 22nd March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.