

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 18th January 2023**

At the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN133QG

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.51 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

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

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Aimee Howe, Kent Wildlife Trust, Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet; 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 2nd November 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 2nd November 2022.

3. Finance Report

Aanya advised that she had started to raise awareness of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math's) while competing in a Robotics competition and was wondering if the Youth Council would be able to support this. It was noted that the Youth Council wanted to support this but not financially. A grant application could be made to Sevenoaks Town Council via its website.

RESOLVED: To note that the Youth Council had funded the purchase of a football table and contributed towards the purchase of an inflatable dartboard for House in the Basement. Current balance was £1,720.10

4. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB)

The Youth Council received a detailed report from Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement.

Daren reported that the last few Wednesdays they had seen a drop in numbers but they have seen more arriving on the Fridays and Saturdays. The Youth Council suggested the possibility of a low maintenance pet for House in the Basement, for example fish or Axolotl.

5. Talk from Kent Wild Life Trust

Aimee Howe from Kent Wildlife Trust spoke to the Youth Council about the Greensands project and outlined ideas for the proposed mural outside House in the Basement. The Greensand commons are areas of outstanding beauty with British heathlands which are quite rare; within these areas we see a number of different flora and fauna that we rarely see in other places in the country. The themes that were proposed for the mural are shown in Appendix 1. It was noted that at the next Climate Change Youth Forum these themes may be reviewed to incorporate wider views on Climate Change.

6. Climate Change Youth Forum

A detailed report from the 2nd Climate Change Youth Forum was received by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

7. Christmas Light Competition Report

The Youth Council received a detailed report about the Christmas Light competition.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

8. House in the Basement 10 Year Celebration

It was noted that House in the Basement had been running for over 10 years And it was hoped a celebration event could be arranged.

9. Further Business

It was noted that the Warm Spaces project and HiTB would welcome donations of young people's hats and Scarves.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 22nd March 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Sevenoaks Youth Council
Appendix 1

Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project and Sevenoaks Town Council Collaborate Mural

Theme 1: Precious Heathland

Aim: to convey the importance of restoring and maintaining British lowland heathland habitat in West Kent. British lowland heathland is rarer than Amazonian rainforest!

Features: key heathland plant and animal species, including heather, gorse, bilberry, slow worm, common lizard, nightjar, white admiral, green tiger beetle, gatekeeper and meadow brown. Also include bracken (invasive species) and birch (encroaching) and a scene of management techniques, such as scything. Examples:



**Sevenoaks Youth Council
Appendix 1**

Theme 2: Discover the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons

Aim: to make local people aware of the eight sites of the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons and their plant and animal species.

Features: an illustrative map of the commons, including each of the eight sites and a handful of species surrounding each location. Examples:

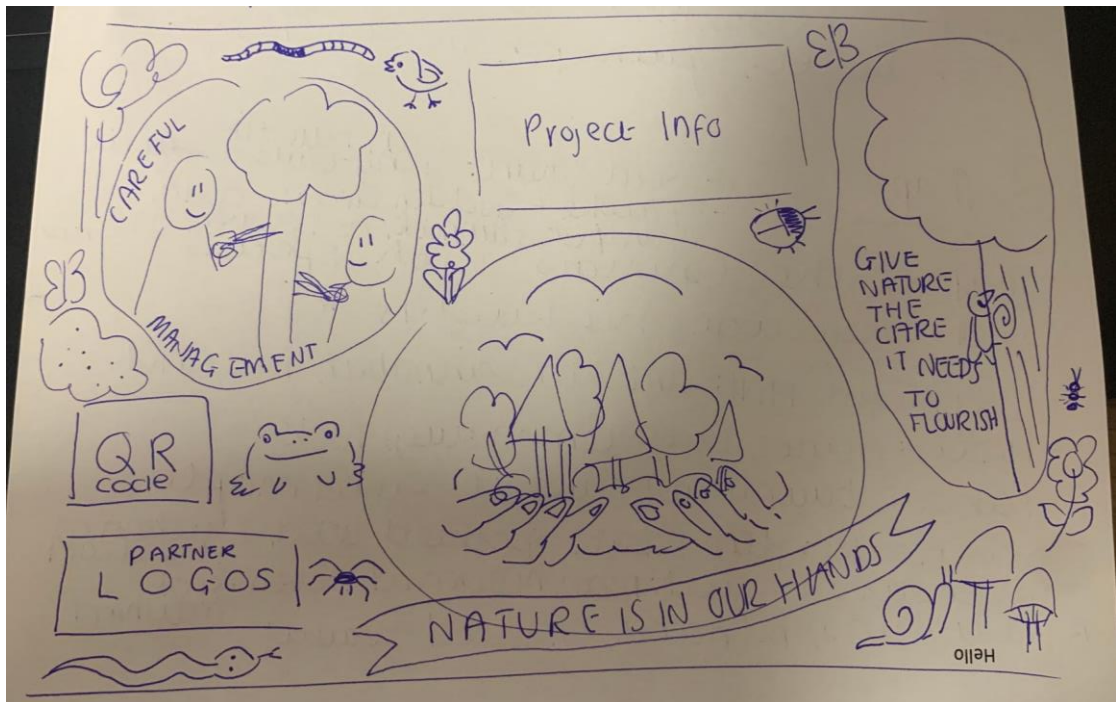


Theme 3: Community-led Conservation

Aim: to promote the value and importance of community-led conservation, encouraging local people to reconnect with the wild spaces on their doorstep.

Features: scenes of happy volunteers carrying out practical conservation work, such as coppicing (to cut back a tree or shrub to ground level periodically to stimulate growth) and pollarding (cut off the top and branches of a tree to encourage new growth at the top). Centre image of two hands holding woodland and shrubs with birds flying out, with a banner saying something like “the state of nature is in our hands”. Features could be set in three “bubbles” on top of a background of woodland and heathland. Examples:

Sevenoaks Youth Council
Appendix 1



Notes: each design must factor in partner logos and a QR code to the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project page, where viewers can find information on volunteering opportunities and visiting the commons.

Please contact People Engagement Officer Aimee at aimee.howe@kentwildlife.org.uk to place your vote for your favourite theme. Please forward any further suggestions for the mural onto Aimee and feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Votes should be placed no later than Monday 20th March.