

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council  
Held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

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

**Meeting Concluded:** 6.48 p.m.

**Present:**

Katie Willis, <b>Chairman</b>	Absent	Maya Goodrich	Absent
Emilia Britain, <b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Apologies	Bea Hayward	Present
Phoebe Critchlow, <b>Treasurer</b>	Absent	Madeleine Politzer	Present
Catherine Barden de Leon	Present	Max Pound	Absent
Henry Barden de Leon	Present	Vince Rands-Webb	Absent
Mahedy Basher	Apologies	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Present	Aanya Sidhu	Apologies
Leah Campbell-Sergeant	Absent	Mia Stack	Absent
Von Ming Fung Chu	Present	Billy Thajudeen	Apologies
Lauren Foster	Present	Torsa Younus	Absent
Neil Gandhi	Absent	Niki Zhang	Present
Jasmine Geer	Absent		

**Youth Council Members:**

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Cllr Chloe Gustard, Councillor for Kippington Ward; Cllr Catherine Daniell, Councillor for Kippington, Cllr Dr Merylyn Canet, Councillor for Northern Ward; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

1. **In the Absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Von Ming Fung Chu was elected to stand in**
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
Received as shown above.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**  
**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.
4. **Finance Report**  
**RESOLVED:** Finance report to follow.
5. **House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:**  
Daren Mountain informed the Youth Council that Perfect Cuisine had helped over the weekend suppling a BBQ for the young people, he also mentioned that they would be working with House in the Basement in October and in December but the dates of this is still to be confirmed. This is generous as all provided free of charge.  
Daren also reported that Sevenoaks District Council had placed a bid in for a mentor plus project to supplement the current Youth Mentoring project. This would open support for NEET young people. These are young people not in education, employment or in additional training. It was noted that House in the Basement may become a venue for the service.  
Daren mentioned that the preposed Mural for outside House in the Basement would not be going ahead.

Daren informed the Youth Council that during the time House in the Basement is closed it is open for people and companies to hire out, he also reported that they currently have a series of hirers that use the space frequently.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the report.

#### **6. Youth Council elections**

The Youth Council noted that the election for the Youth Councillors would be taking place during September and that any wishing to stay on with the Youth Council would need to resubmit their entry forms.

#### **7. Climate Change Youth Forum**

The Youth Council received the report from the Climate Change Youth Forum that was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

#### **8. Discussion on items that the Youth Council would like to see following the new Youth Council**

The Chair invited the Youth Councillors to discuss what sort of events or projects they feel would be engaging for the young people of Sevenoaks and that the next Youth Council should invest their money in.

One idea was to put on a drive for food banks to help support those who need it. Daren reported that House in the Basement was currently in the final stages of rejoining the Fair Share programme that would allow House in the Basement to receive and use excess food from local supermarkets. If any of the items are not used there is the option for this to be given to local food banks.

Another idea that was suggested was hosting a youth talent show for young people to showcase their talents. It was suggested that if this event was to be held that the Plaza suite in the Stag Theatre might be a good venue to host it.

It was suggested that they could a self defense or spatial awareness course for young people. It was noted that they could work with Kenward Trust to hold a workshop around the topic of anti-social behaviour.

The Youth Council also suggested holding a Youth Cricket match over the summer and inviting local schools to participate by making their own team as well as having a Youth Council team.

Another suggestion was to hold a skate park event like the ones that have been held in previous years at the Greatness Recreational Grounds skate park.

Another idea was to host a Charity fundraising event to help raise awareness for local charities.

It was noted that the Youth Council were concerned with the amount of litter at the Vine Gardens especially after events. While it was suggested that more bins might need to be provided it was also noted that in other places, they are removing their bins to encourage people to think more carefully as to how they dispose of their rubbish.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of September at House in the Basement,

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of November at the Town Council offices.**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.