

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 22nd April 2024

Held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:

https://youtube.com/live/_gqPZi0kLGQ?feature=share

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.20 p.m.

Cllr Claire Shea, Mayor	Present	Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum, Deputy Mayor	Present	Cllr Sally Layne	Present
Cllr Sue Camp	Present	Cllr Lionel O’Hara	Apologies
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Apologies
Cllr Tony Clayton, Leader	Present	Cllr David Skinner OBE	Present
Cllr Catherine Daniell	Apologies	Cllr Nick Varley	Apologies
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Present	Cllr Nigel Wightman, Deputy Leader	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville	Apologies	Cllr Gareth Willis	Present

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer/Deputy Town Clerk and Senior Committee Clerk.

Members of Public in Attendance: 1

24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and accepted as shown above.

25 Requests for Dispensations: none received.

26 Declarations of Interest: none received.

27 Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 26th February 2024

RESOLVED: to accept and sign the minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 26th February 2024 as a true record.

28 Leader & Deputy Leader of Sevenoaks Town Council

Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Clayton for all he had done in his role as Leader of the Town Council.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Cllr Nigel Wightman be elected Leader of Sevenoaks Town Council
- 2) Cllr Catherine Daniell be elected Deputy Leader of Sevenoaks Town Council

29 Minutes of Committees

29.1 Planning Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4th March, 18th March, 2nd April and 15th April 2024 as true records.

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29.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 26th February 2024 as a true record.

29.3 Youth Services Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee held on 20th March 2024 as a true record.

29.4 Personnel Committee

It was noted that the minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 25th March 2024 had been amended to correct errors with the minute numbers and page numbers.

RESOLVED: Subject to the amendment above, to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 25th March 2024 as a true record.

30 Suspension of Standing Orders at 7.05pm

RESOLVED that: in accordance with Standing Order 10(xxvii), the meeting be temporarily suspended, to enable representations from a member of the public to be heard.

Representations received from Member of the Public

Cllr Richard Streatfeild, Sevenoaks District Council & Kent County Council (KCC), gave an update on key matters at KCC, including that:

- Budget issues continued
- Significant work was being undertaken in relation to unaccompanied children seeking asylum
- The new border checks being introduced were causing immense concern in relation to likely delays and the impact on Kent

In Sevenoaks, Cllr Streatfeild had been working on

- the 20mph scheme, with ongoing meetings between STC and KCC
- SEN casework, particularly in relation to school appeals
- Meetings with Thames Water regarding sewerage

31 Reconvening of the Meeting at 7.10m

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7.10pm.

32 Notice of Proposed Amendment to Standing Orders: Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: to receive notice that Sevenoaks Town Council would be amending its Standing Orders, in line with updated financial regulations, at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Monday 13th May 2024.

33 Purchase of Longspring Woods: Update

Following the decision of Sevenoaks Town Council to purchase Longspring Woods as an Asset of Community Value (*Minute 698, 26.02.2024 refers*), progress with the purchase was noted.

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RESOLVED to note that:

- 1) As a result of the Pledge Campaign for public donations held in February 2024, £103,475 was pledged in 23 days: £101,192 had been paid into Sevenoaks Town Council's bank account and was held in an Earmarked Reserve for the purchase of Longspring Woods.
- 2) The offer of £185,000 agreed at the Town Council meeting held on 26th February 2024 had been accepted and the normal conveyance procedures were progressing.

34 Completed Projects by Committees

The Town Council received a record of Completed Matters, actions completed by Committees since the election of the Town Council's new Councillors 2023-2027 up to present.

It was noted that revisions were being proposed by Kent County Council to the East to West Cycle route in Sevenoaks Town which would be the subject of public consultation in May/June. This would be considered at a future meeting of the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: To receive and note report of projects completed by Committees since May 2023.

35 Reports to Council: Town Council Representatives on External Organisations

1. Cllr Dixon, representative on Friends of Rheinbach reported that:
 - A visit from Freunde von Sevenoaks was planned for Thursday 4th – Monday 8 July this year. Various meals and outings were being planned.
 - Consideration was also being given to a proposal for a joint football camp for boys and girls from Sevenoaks and Rheinbach, to be hosted in Sevenoaks.
2. Cllr Clayton advised that he had attended a meeting with Southeastern on behalf of the Town Council and Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association. He reported that Southeastern now had some funding available for their scheme promoting the environment: parish and town councils and community partnerships would be able to bid for funding. Cllr Clayton would send details to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the reports.

36 Mayor's Engagements

The Mayor advised that many of the recent events she had attended had been artistic/musical. She also thanked Councillors for attending, and officers for their hard work setting up the Town Council's stand at the Vegan Market.

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The Mayor reminded everybody of the Double Spectacular Fundraising Event for Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees at the Stag Theatre on Saturday 27th April:

Tickets were available at the Stag:

['Our Little House' Captain Fantastic - The Stag Sevenoaks](#)

['Our House' Elektra Violin Duo & Squeeze A Crowd - The Stag Sevenoaks](#)

RESOLVED: To note and accept the reports relating to Mayoral activities:

- a) functions attended by the Mayor or her representative up to 13th April 2024;
and
- b) forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2023-24

37 Press Releases: None.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed

Mayor

Dated