

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 15th January 2025

at Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG,

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.46 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Simba Li- Chair	Apologies	Lizzie Hunt	Absent
Rosie Blackmore- Vice-Chair	Present	Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Present
Harry King- Treasurer	Present	Ishwar Sharma	Present
Bianca Agarwal	Present	Miko Keen	Absent
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Riddley McDermott	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Apologies	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Elif Sabanci	Present
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Present	Jospeh Soanes	Absent
Ayush Gautam	Absent	Ines Wang	Present
Maya Goodrich	Apologies	Aditya Vara	Absent
Bea Hayward	Absent		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

1. **In the Absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Rosie Blackmore Chaired the meeting.**

2. **Apologies for Absence**
Received as shown above.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 13th November 2024**
RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 13th November 2024.

4. **Election of a Social Media Officer**
The Youth Council held a vote to elect a Social Media, Officer. The Vice-Chair noted that the potential amount of work would be too much for one person to carry out it was decided that the position should be split to ease the workload. However, the Youth Council noted that the person who uses the account must be sixteen or over. The Youth Council noted that those under sixteen could write the posts and another person over sixteen could post them on social media. Aryanna, Ishwar and Riddley placed their names forward for the post.

RESOLVED: All three will help to create posts for the Youth Council Instagram account with Ishwar and Riddley writing the posts and Aryanna posting them on the Social Media Platform.

HitB Manager and Youth Committee Clerk will also add or tag in the YC Instagram account where appropriate.

5. **Finance Report**

RESOLVED: 1) To note that the current balance for 2024/25 was £2,165.37
2) To note that the current balance of the Youth Charity Account was £18.00.

6. **Current Matters Report**

RESOLVED: To accept and note the Current Matters Report.

7. **House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:**

The Chair noted that Daren's report was incredibly positive with four young people conducting their Duke of Edinburgh. Daren reported that House in the Basement held a Christmas meal for thirty-five young people which had been catered for by Perfect Cuisine for free.

It was also noted that Daren had gone to Trinity School to talk about House in the Basement and what they offer as well as the Sevenoaks BID (Business Improvement District), it was noted that as an outcome of this talk, a young person put their name forward to join the BID steering group.

8. **Funding For a VR Headset for House in the Basement**

The Youth Council received a request from Daren Mountain to help fund the purchase of a VR Gaming headset for young people who attend House in the Basement to use.

RESOLVED: To fund the purchase of the VR Gaming Headset at £379.00 from the Youth Council Budget.

9. **Greatness Recreational Ground Survey**

The Youth Councillors heard that Sevenoaks Town Council had previously distributed a Survey regarding Greatness Recreational Ground and as an outcome of this, it had been recommended that they move the Playground from its current location near the car park to further up close to the Football Stadium. It was noted that a survey had been drawn up for Public Consultation to give feedback on the proposed relocation of the playground.

RESOLVED: The Youth Council considered the proposal to move the play area seemed to be a good solution to avoid crossing the car park from the field, however, were too old to be users of the facility.

10. **Mental Health Survey**

The Youth Council received 250 responses from their Mental Health Survey that were sent to the Secondary Schools in Sevenoaks for Students to fill in anonymously. It was noted the data in its current format is useful but if the responses were categorised it would help to see the types of trends in the data.

The Chair pulled attention to the fact that 25.10% of young people which is sixty-two of the 247 young people answered the Question: "How comfortable you are talking about your Mental Health?"

It was also noted that on question 10: “What could be done in your local community to raise awareness about Mental Health?” one of the responses mentioned Youth Clubs and Youth Events, the Youth Council noted that perhaps more publicity around House in the Basement to draw more attention to the work Daren and his team do.

RESOLVED: 1) To compile the data into a workable document that can be shared and used by Schools and other Youth Organisations. To create Social Media posts to draw attention to House in the Basement.

2) To place on the next agenda the ability to provide training for young people to support others with mental health assistance.

11. Upcoming Events

It was noted that the following events will be taking place:

- Open Mic Night Friday 31st of January 2025,
- Free Photography Session Wednesday 19th February 2025,
- Darts Tournaments at House in the Basement every last Wednesday of the month.

12. Date of Next Meetings

RESOLVED:

- Wednesday 05th March 2025 at 6 pm at House in The Basement,
- Wednesday 07th May 2025 at 6 pm at the Town Council Offices,

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.