

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 05th March 2025

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

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Simba Li- Chair	Present	Lizzie Hunt	Absent
Rosie Blackmore- Vice-Chair	Present	Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Absent
Harry King- Treasurer	Present	Sharma Ishwar	Present
Bianca Agarwal	Absent	Riddley McDermott	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Present	Ayaan Motwani	Present
Catherine Barden De Leon	Present	John Ng	Present
Rosie Blackmore	Present	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Elif Sabanci	Absent
Catherine Campbell-Pitt	Present	Drago Schwalber-Janaway	Present
Charlotte Doe	Present	Jospeh Soanes	Present
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Apologies	James Tang	Present
Ayush Gautam	Absent	Ines Wang	Absent
Maya Goodrich	Absent	Aditya Vara	Present
Bea Hayward	Absent		

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk and CEO of Sevenoaks Town Council; Holly Brazier, Deputy Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence

Received as shown above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 15th January 2025

It was noted that during the last meeting, elections were held for a Social Media officer. Aryanna reported that since starting the Instagram page the youth council have posted four items, had 36 followers and was following 93 accounts. It was noted that many of these accounts were primarily businesses and organisations to help give the Youth Council a starting base.

It was suggested that to gain more followers they should post more regularly, with this in mind Aryanna asked for Youth Council members to come up with posts that they could put on the Instagram page. The Youth Council suggested:

- Putting a biography post on the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer, and other Youth Councillors at a later date.
- Posting about what was agreed at the meetings,
- Continuing to promote events for Young People at House in the Basement.
- Agreed expenditure e.g. Purchase of the VR Headset with photo.

RESOLVED: 1) To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council

held on 15th January 2025.

2) To generate more Instagram posts.

3) All Youth Councillors were asked to follow and share the Instagram Account.

3. Finance Report

The Youth Council heard from Harry King that since the last Youth Council meeting the VR Headset for House in the Basement had been ordered. It was also noted that a further £500 would be received on the 1st of April.

RESOLVED: To note that the current balance for 2024/2025 was £1,850.37

4. Current Matters Report

RESOLVED: To accept the Current Matters Report.

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

The Youth Council noted that the report from House in the Basement had not been attached to the agenda, we apologise that the information was missing from the agenda and have attached the report as an appendix to the minutes.

6. Re-Stringing Guitars at House in the Basement

The Youth Council heard that The Lewis Project has offered to re-string two guitars at House in the Basement and had been informed that it would cost around £80-£100.

RESOLVED: the Youth Council agreed to fund the re-stringing of the two guitars at £80-£100.

7. Skate Park Event

The Youth Council noted that over the summer holidays, Sevenoaks Town Council works with Kings Ramps to supply a Skate Park event for young people of all capabilities to enjoy. It was noted that Kings Ramps hosts the event and provides professional Skateboarders, BMX and Scooter riders who put on demonstrations throughout the day and provide sessions throughout the day for young people who want to learn new skills or simply start out in the sport.

It was noted that the event costs up to £2,000 to provide, with the sponsor's Logos for the event being placed on the promotional material such as Banners, Flyers and Posters.

The Youth Council noted that this would be a good way of promoting the Sevenoaks Youth Council, it was noted that they would also be interested in having a stand at the event and having their logo on promotional literature.

RESOLVED: The Youth Council agreed to provide £750 towards the event.

8. Climate Change Youth Forum

The Youth Council noted also that the Climate Change Youth Forum had previously been held by inviting schools during the school day to attend, while it had started well there were a number of logistical factors involved for the schools. The Youth Council suggested that the meetings could be held in tandem with the Youth Council as the Environment is one of their key priorities for their term.

It was noted that Sevenoaks Climate Action Network (SCAN) had invited the Youth Council to have a stall at their Climate Fair event that will be taking place on the Vine Gardens on Saturday the 3rd of May. The Youth Council came up with the following suggestions for their stall:

- Raffle,
- Bake sale,
- Leaflets and flyers made from seed paper,
- Information on where to recycle glass bottles and vapes.

The Youth Council heard that Falmouth Town Council have produced a reusable party kit that is free for the community to hire as part of their Plastic-Free Pledge. It was noted STC staff were trying to find out more information about the kits.

RESOLVED: 1) For the Climate Change Youth Forum to be merged with the Youth Council.

2) For the Sevenoaks Youth Council to have a stall at the Climate Fair, STC staff to purchase seed paper for printing flyers and leaflets for the Youth Council to give out at the event.

9. Mental Health Survey Report

A summary of the report had been circulated with the agenda.

The Youth Council heard from Ridley that he had complied with the individual responses received from the Mental Health Survey in Questions 3, 9 and 10. Riddley expressed that given that the survey was done within schools, another wider-reaching survey could be done for young people who are home-schooled. The Chair thought it was best currently to concentrate on the School Survey.

Riddley noted that the most common answers that appeared when compiling the data were exams/tests and homework. The chair asked what council members thought could be done to help support those who were struggling with exams and homework. The youth council suggest the following:

- Talking to Teachers, Parents or an individual outside of the home such as a Youth Worker.
- Advertising where to get advice within schools,
- Provide links and posters to organisations like Kooth where young people can go to get help,
- Hold informal revision sessions and/or language sessions at a venue like House in the Basement.

RESOLVED: To include parts of Riddley's report in the Mental Health Report for schools and other Youth Organisations.

10. Sevenoaks School Triathlon- Volunteer Opportunity

The Youth Council heard that the Knight Frank Schools Triathlon had been in contact asking if any youth councillors would like to volunteer during the event on the 11th of May to greet the triathletes as they arrive, Steward triathletes along the course and hand out medals.

RESOLVED: For representatives of the Youth Council to attend the event via the poster previously circulated.

11. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED:

- Wednesday 7th of May at The Town Council Chamber, TN13 3QG,
- **TBC-** at Annual Council Meeting (Mayor Making) held on 12th May 2025 at 7 pm in The Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.