

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 20th April 2026
Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:
<https://youtube.com/live/pYIDsu9fdBw>

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:17

Present:

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

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

Prior to the meeting, a minute’s silence was held in memory of former Mayor and Town Councillor Maurice Short

Members of public present: 3

Public Questions: None

Cllr Richard Streatfeild, Sevenoaks District Council & Kent County Council (KCC), reported that:

- The first group of councils on the Local Government Review fast track received the results of how they are going to proceed and broadly speaking the government has chosen smaller geographical areas with fewer people and more councillors than previously thought
- If Kent follows a similar pattern, it was likely to be arranged into at least three, probably four unitary authorities
- At KCC’s Scrutiny Committee on 1st April, it was noted that winter had seen a sharp deterioration in roads; the administration had signed a new 15-year contract for dealing with potholes
- Incidents of fly tipping were being caught at greater rates and new measures were coming forward from the government to help prevent criminal disposal of waste
- The Adult Education Centre building had now been sold, subject to contract

22 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence as shown above.

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23 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Noted that all Councillors who were also Stag Trustees had a pre-approved dispensation, reference Minute 27 below insofar as it related to the Community Asset Transfer request for the Stag freehold.

24 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25 - MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED: To receive, adopt and sign the Minutes of the meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 23rd February 2026 as a true record.

26 - MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:

Planning & Environment Committee

- 2nd March 2026
- 16th March 2026
- 30th March 2026
- 13th April 2026

Finance & Delivery Committee

- 23rd February 2026

Personnel Committee

- 18th March 2026

Community Assets (Open Spaces) Committee

- 23rd March 2026

Youth Services Committee

- 1st April 2026

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27 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

RESOLVED: To note the following Freedom of Information Request received:

Date received	Date acknowledged	Topic
11.04.26 (Saturday)	13.04.26	Regarding the proposal to transfer the freehold of the Stag Theatre from Sevenoaks District Council to Sevenoaks Town Council, could you please answer the following Freedom of Information Request. Has Sevenoaks Town Council received any independent legal or professional advice on the legality of the proposed asset transfer of the Stag freehold at nil proceeds? If yes, what was the advice? Is it possible for me to see a copy of this advice?

28 - REPORTS TO COUNCIL - STC REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports were received.

29 - MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and other councillors who had attended events on his behalf when he was unable to attend, helping to fulfil public engagements and representing the town.

RESOLVED: To receive and note:

- a. Functions attended by the Mayor or his representative up to 9th April 2026
- b. Forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2025/2026

30 - PRESS RELEASE: None.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the Meeting.

Signed

Mayor

Dated