

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council  
Held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

at House in the Basement, Stag Community Arts Centre, London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ZZ,

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

**Meeting Concluded:** 6.43 p.m.

**Present:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Aanya Sidhu- <b>Chair</b>	Absent	Bea Hayward	Absent
- <b>Vice-Chair</b>		Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Present
Simba Li- <b>Treasurer</b>	Absent	Sharma Ishwar	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Absent	Miko Keen	Apologies
Catherine Barden De Leon	Present	Harry King	Present
Rosie Blackmore	Apologies	Madeleine Politzer	Absent
Dexter Buhmann	Present	Elena Rozo-Navarro	Absent
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Apologies	Jospeh Soanes	Absent
Ayush Gautam	Absent	Aditya Vara	Absent
Maya Goodrich	Absent		

In attendance: Georgina Jackson, Responsible Finance Officer & Deputy 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 and Treasurer, Harry King was elected to Chair the meeting.**
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
Received as shown above.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
4. **Finance Report**  
It was noted that £1,720.10 had been carried over from the previous financial year 2023/24 and that the Youth Council had been allocated £500 at the start of this financial year 2024/25.  
  
**RESOLVED:** To note that the current balance for 2024/25 was £2,220.10
5. **Vice-Chair**  
It was noted that Niki Zhang had stood down as a Youth Councillor.
6. **Election of Vice-Chair**  
The Youth Council held an election for the office of Vice-Chair, one Youth Councillor put their name forward.  
  
**RESOLVED:** That Harry King be elected as Vice-Chair.

**7. Representatives of the Charity Friends for Families**

The Youth Council heard from Claire Davison, the Treasurer of Friends for Families, that they are a small charity who work with Children's Services to help Families with day-to-day items, anything from helping with the weekly food shop to helping to obtain beds and white goods (Fridge, freezers washing machines and dryers). She mentioned that this tends to be through referral from Children's Services and all the requests they received go to the board of trustees to be agreed. It was noted that they had spent £92,000 helping families across Sevenoaks; Claire reflected that her favourite item so far that they have procured is a practice head for a NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young person to practice hair dressing.

The Youth Council heard how the Charity had originally started as an appeal for Christmas presents led by Shona Campbell through her running courses; she later founded Friends for Families with Deborah Griffin in 2018.

Claire mentioned that the Charity would be delighted to receive any funds that the Youth Council could raise and mentioned the charity would be happy to give the Youth Council boxes with the charity name on for events. The Youth Council discussed the different ways they could raise money either through a raffle held during school or Sevenoaks Town Council events or doing cake sales or "Bake off" challenges at House in the Basement.

**8. Current Matters Report**

The Youth Council received a report that summarised all of the Current Matters suggested through the meetings since their election in November 2023.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Current Matters Report.

**9. House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Manager's report:**

The Youth Council heard from Daren Mountain that House in the Basement had started to plan their annual trip to the beach. Daren also wanted to reiterate the last paragraph of his report "Whilst sadly many Town, District & County councils reduce the amount of youth provision they give to their communities, we can be proud of the service Sevenoaks Town area receives."

**10. Maze Wheel**

**RESOLVED:** To defer this item to the next Youth Council Meeting.

**11. Climate Change Youth Forum**

The Youth Council received the Minutes of the Climate Change Youth Forum held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Minutes of the Climate Change Youth Forum held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.

**12. Youth Council Mental Health Survey**

The Youth Council received the draft Mental Health Survey. The Youth Council agreed they were happy with the questions placed on the survey.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note that a Draft Survey had been created.

**13. Youth Council Mental Health Poster**

The Youth Council received the Draft Mental Health Posters.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note a draft mental health poster had been created.

**14. How to Promote the Youth Council**

Youth Council members discussed ways in which they could raise awareness for both the Youth Council and their chosen charity. It was noted that while an Instagram account had been created by Youth Councillors there still had not been any posts made on the account; it was noted that this would be a good platform for promoting any future events or activities the Youth Council would like to do over their two-year term.

**RESOLVED:** To produce an Instagram post to promote the Youth Council.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** to note that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6pm in the Town Council Chamber.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.