

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council
Held on 10th July 2024**

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

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 6.49 p.m.

Present:

Youth Council Members:

Aanya Sidhu- Chair	Absent	Maya Goodrich	Apologies
Harry King- Vice-Chair	Present	Bea Hayward	Apologies
Simba Li- Treasurer	Absent	Cristian Hunter-Garcia	Present
Aryanna Mahdavi Ardestani	Apologies	Sharma Ishwar	Apologies
Catherine Barden De Leon	Absent	Miko Keen	Apologies
Rosie Blackmore	Present	Madeleine Politzer	Apologies
Dexter Buhmann	Absent	Jospeh Soanes	Present
Elena-Teodora Dragoi	Absent	Aditya Vara	Absent
Ayush Gautam	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 Harry King Chaired the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
They were received as shown above.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 15th May 2024**
RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 15th May 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. **Current Matters Report**
RESOLVED: To accept the Current Matters Report.
6. **House in the Basement Youth Café (HiTB), Managers report:**
The Youth Council heard from Daren Mountain that the Youth Café is doing well. Daren also reported that the NEET (not in Education, Employment, or Training) project was still ongoing with small numbers in attendance. It was noted that the NEET project was undergoing a rebrand to try and gain more publicity. The Youth Council was handed a draft poster to get their thoughts.
 - Large amounts of text, perhaps needs to be slimmed down or bullet-pointed.

- Key information in the left box could be made clearer.
- Portrait rather than Landscape.
- It is unclear from the image what it is about, an image of friendly faces may be better or footprints.
- It is very in your face which may not appeal to young people with anxiety.
- Remove the Next Steps and have Moving Forward as the title. Maybe having this towards the bottom of the page.

RESOLVED: New posters to be created taking on board the Youth Council's advice to promote the NEET Project.

It was noted that there is no clear signage for the opening times for House in the Basement. The Youth Council noted that signs or posters with the opening times would be useful especially on the door to HiTB to advertise.

7. Charity- Friends for Families

The Youth Councillors noted that it would be useful to have some form of flyers or posters from Friends for Families to help promote the charity as they can take these to schools and local companies.

The Youth Council expressed an interest in holding a bake sale at House in the Basement to help raise money and awareness for the charity. Daren noted that Friends for Families could have a stall outside House in the Basement during the sale to help raise awareness.

It was also noted that House in the Basement with West Kent Youth Trust have held Silent discos in the past towards Halloween and a similar event could be done by the Youth Council to help raise funds for their chosen charity. The Youth Councillors mentioned that a costume competition could be held with a prize for the best dressed to help entice young people to attend with entry prices for the event going to their chosen charity.

RESOLVED:

1. To hold a fundraising cake sale in September
2. To hold a fundraising Halloween Disco and Fancy-Dress Competition in October.

8. Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey and Posters

Harry noted that he had handed copies of the surveys to his form in school. He informed the Youth Council that while some of the ideas that were mentioned may not be actionable by the Town Council, However, it had got young people actively involved in talking about mental health.

The Youth Council received posters designed to allow schools to fill in the relevant information to help young people identify who they can go to get help or advice for things like mental health. It was noted that if these were put up around schools the target audience may not read them in case of persecution for peers, some schools have bulletins in the morning where these could be shown to avoid this.

RESOLVED: The mental health posters and surveys are to be sent to schools at the start of the new school year in September 2024 with a completion deadline of the end of September.

9. Workshop ideas how to promote the Climate Change Youth Forum

The Youth Council heard that previously the Town Council invited schools to attend the Climate Change Youth Forums and that there was a good level of interest at the start of the project but due to administrative issues there had been a decision to branch out to solely asking young people if they would like to attend an evening meeting. It was noted that these meetings had not been well attended.

- The Youth Council noted that an incentive similar to the Youth Council such as being able to place attendance of these meetings on a C.V. or counting it towards DofE volunteer may improve attendance.
- Designing posters with signup sheets for schools to use may also help.
- It was noted that going back to the school Eco Councils may be an option as schools gained from the conversations through talking to one another.

RESOLVED: To coordinate and arrange with schools to attend the next and future meetings of the Climate Change Youth Forum.

10. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED:

- Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 6 pm in the Town Council Chamber
- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 6 pm at House in The Basement
- Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6 pm in the Town Council Chamber
- Wednesday 05th March 2025 at 6 pm at House in The Basement

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.