

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council  
Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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

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

**Meeting Concluded:** 6.35 p.m.

**Present:**

**Youth Council Members:**

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

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk; Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café; Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk. Cllr Gustard, Cllr Canet and Shelley Williams, Engagement lead for Kooth and Qwell.

**1. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Aryanna was Chair of the meeting**

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Received as shown above.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Youth Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**4. Finance Report**

**RESOLVED:** To note that the current balance for 2024/25 was £2,220.10.

**5. Current Matters Report**

The Youth Councillors noted that in the previous meeting, they had suggested holding a bake sale at House in the Basement one Saturday in September to raise money for their chosen charity. It was noted that they may get more foot traffic if they had a stall at an event. It was suggested that the Youth Council could have a stall at the Sevenoaks Bike Festival on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September from 10 am.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) **To accept the Current Matters Report.**
- ii) **All Youth Councillors where possible to help with donation of cakes and selling them at event to raise funds for Charity.**

## 6. **Kooth Mental Health**

The Youth Council received a talk from Kelley Williams the Engagement Manager for Kooth. Before the talk the Youth, Council was asked how many had heard of Kooth, just over half raised their hands but noted that they had heard of the name from posters around their schools, it was also mentioned that Kooth had been into a few of their schools.

Kelley explained that Kooth was set up as an NHS support resource and is free for anyone to use, you would need to sign up via their website. Kelley reported there are a few different ways that Kooth can work for you once you have signed up, you can request a drop-in session where you would be able to speak to 1 of 150 councillors, though she did note that there have been waiting times of up to 48 hours before a councillor is available. It was noted that there are regular sessions that you can sign up to, during these the first 3 sessions are figuring out who the best councillor would be to pair you with and then you would have regular meetings with them.

It was also noted that on the site there are a number of articles written by the users of Kooth to help young people with their mental health, Kelley also mentioned that if you find these articles useful and leave a comment the comments are received by the young person who wrote the article. It was noted that there were discussion boards for young people to write and talk to others. It was reported that there are specialised discussion boards for SEN young people to use. Kelley noted that the site is fully moderated to protect users. It was mentioned that last year they had over one million young people signing up for the resource.

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

The Youth Council heard from Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement that during the summer holidays, they had seen fewer young people attending, Daren reported that this was normal for this time of year. It was noted that over the holidays a series of events had taken place including Photograph and Street Dance Sessions hosted by West Kent Housing, as well as a coach trip to Broadstairs. Daren also reported they had received new PCs via match funding from Kent Youth Trust.

## 8. **Summer Youth Provision Report**

The Youth Council received and noted the Summer Youth Provision report.

## 9. **Halloween Disco**

The Youth Council received two different poster designs for a Halloween Disco. Daren reported that in the past these events have not been very well attended despite the number of tickets being booked through the ticket system Eventbrite. It was noted that if the Youth Council did wish to do this again it would be best to charge a minimal fee to try and secure people coming to the event with the money from the ticket sale going to their chosen charity. It was reported that adding incentives like one free drink or snack with the purchase of a ticket might also help to entice young people to attend. The Youth Council mentioned that having a QR code or What 3 Words link on the poster to a map of where the event is might also attract young people to the event.

**RESOLVED: To hold as a charity fund raising event, £3 per Ticket. All Youth Councillors to help promote.**

## 10. **Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:**

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6 pm at House in The Basement

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6 pm in the Town Council Chamber
- Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6 pm at House in The Basement

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.