

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council
Held on Wednesday 07 May 2025
In the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Meeting commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 19:02

Present:

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

In attendance: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO, Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Committee Clerk

1 – In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, Riddley Chaired the meeting.

2- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted as noted above.

3 – MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON 05th MARCH

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It was agreed to receive and accept the minutes as a true record.

4 – FINANCE REPORT

The Youth Council heard that since the last meeting, £100 had been allocated to the House in the Basement for the re-stringing of Guitars and £750 had been allocated to the Skateboarding event.

RESOLVED: To note that the current budget for 2024/2025 was £1,000.37.

5 – CURRENT MATTERS REPORTS

RESOLVED: To receive and accept the current matters report.

6 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HitB) YOUTH CAFE

Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement, reported that HitB has seen an increase in young people attending, with more young people signing up to complete their Bronze and Silver D of E with House in the Basement.

It was noted that the Open Mic Nights have been well attended, with a professional rapper coming to perform on the 28th of March 2025. Daren noted that there are more planned to take place with some on the 11th of July, 12th of September and one on the Vine Bandstand on the 14th of August. Daren also noted they are planning a trip to Broadstairs again this year.

7 – SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

The youth council received an interesting and thought-provoking talk on Smartphone Free Childhood from Kathrine.

Kathrine informed the Youth Council that Smartphone Free Childhood is an organisation made of parents campaigning to increase awareness of the harm and impact that Smartphones can have on young people. Katherine noted that this has been covered a lot in the media as of late, with schools starting to ban smartphones from being brought on the premises. It was noted that in a study of young people carried out in 2024, 50% of young people who took part said they were addicted to their phones.

The Youth Council questioned if the same effect could be reached with tighter restrictions, as phones can be useful if you have lost your parent or guardian in busy places such as train stations. It was noted that regulations were currently being looked at by the central government. However, it is felt that there is a loss of social

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aspect associated with these situations and the social skills that are learnt by a young person as a result of the interactions, as before mobile phones, you would have had to find a guard or someone at the ticket desk to wait with and place a call over the PA system until your parent or guardian found you.

It was noted that the idea was not to ban phones completely, but simply the use of a Smartphone, the idea being to limit the exposure to harmful content through social media and other outlets. It was noted that this could be done with a phone pre-2010, as it would not have access to social media.

8 - SKATEBOARDING EVENT

The Youth Councillors received and noted the update report on the Skateboarding event on the 25th of July.

9 – FEEDBACK FROM EVENTS

Riddley gave feedback on the Climate Fair that occurred on Saturday, the 3rd of May. He mentioned that it was a great event, with lots of interesting stalls and asked if the Badgers Trust could be invited to speak at a future meeting.

It was noted that during the event, the Youth Councillors did an amazing job at creating “Stay Green” bracelets to hand out and handed out a lot of seed paper information cards to people as they passed by.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed

Chair

Dated