

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Wellbeing Committee
Held on 31st March 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:

<https://youtube.com/live/oewdbzeSFyc>

Meeting commenced: 7.00pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.05pm

Present:

Cllr Claire Shea, Chair (joined meeting at 7.40pm)	Present	Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville, Vice-Chair In the Chair	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum, Mayor	Present	Cllr Gareth Willis	Apologies
Cllr Catherine Daniell (Deputy Leader)	Apologies		

In attendance: Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, Cllr Tony Clayton, Cllr David Skinner, Cllr Nigel Wightman, Town Clerk, Senior Committee Clerk, Planning Committee Clerk.

Sevenoaks Primary Care Network: James Monet, Operations Manager
(present until 7.50pm) Rebecca Gerges, Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT)
Coordinator

Members of Public: 0

Representations received from Members of the Public: None

640 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

641 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

642 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Claire Shea declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 (Grant Application), insofar as it related to We are Beams.

643 - MINUTES OF MEETING OF 3RD FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED: To receive, adopt and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Wellbeing Committee held on 3rd February 2025 as a true record.

644 - FUTURE HEALTH PROVISION IN SEVENOAKS - PRIMARY CARE NETWORK

The Chair welcomed the following representatives of the Primary Care Network (PCN) to the meeting: James Monet, Operations Manager; and Rebecca Gerges, Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) Coordinator.

James and Rebecca gave a presentation which set out:

- The history and aims of the PCN, which was formed in Sevenoaks in 2019
- Successes including recruiting 65 additional staff, delivery of vaccine in the Covid programme, business intelligence for Sevenoaks in Primary Care
- Public health data understanding the population and how demographics affect deprivation and wellbeing
- Work to improve community links, including foodbanks, U3A groups, mini health checks, schools and Kent Community Health Foundation Trust
- Development of Neighbourhood Teams, collaboration between PCN and community partners
- Integrated Neighbourhood Teams in Care Homes and the introduction of formal Ward Round process

The Town Clerk advised of the Mental Health Survey undertaken by the Sevenoaks Youth Council which had received 250 responses from young people aged 11 to 18. It was agreed to send the report to the PCN.

It was noted that NHS free health checks were offered for ages 40 – 74 but was felt that this should be extended to people over 74. Rebecca stated that KCHFT had advised that they would also do a basic health check for the over 74s.

James emphasised the importance of collaboration and building a strong framework with community partners including local councils. He commented that there was a lot of silos in health and a key goal was to improve shared understanding. He added that one of the biggest hindrances to the PCN was the need for space in buildings.

It was noted that the projected significant rise in the population of Sevenoaks would have implications for primary care and was queried what role the PCN could have in ensuring that increased demand was addressed. James advised that the PCN would sit alongside the GPs and also between GP and secondary care, so was in a good position to be part of planning processes and to make recommendations. The PCN also had more capacity than GPs to work on buildings and sourcing additional space rather than taking GPs away from patients.

In response to a question about how the Town Council could help/work with the PCN, James stated that information was key. Traditionally the NHS and PCN focused on patients and there was sometimes difficulty knowing what was happening in the wider world: for example, knowing which Council dealt with which area. It was about knowing how to get a seat at the table in the first place. He gave the current example of GPs being too late to bid

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for developing services as part of the Quarry Development S106. Councillors confirmed that the Town Council had been very keen to see that happen and was very disappointed it had not been included in the S106 Agreement.

Councillors commented on the loss of the 19 recovery beds at Sevenoaks hospital, a significant part of the care pathway and queried how this could be addressed. It was noted that overall responsibility was with the Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board. The PCN was part of this, accountable to its commissioners for the delivery of its services.

Another issue raised was personal engagement with the NHS, with current experiences not being ideal and a perception that the NHS was putting up barriers. It was noted that there was a capacity issue with Kent being in the higher level of GP to patient ratios. James advised that GP practices were working hard to alleviate the 8am rush for appointments and had instituted a robust online consultation process with the caveat that they did not wish to create digital exclusion in doing so.

Councillors queried whether the impact of wider social issue such as some people being unable to source nutritional food was monitored. James agreed this was extremely important and that a lot of the people seen by the social prescriber service had social needs manifesting as health needs. This data was reported to the West Kent Health & Care partnership.

The Committee was keen to support the PCN and asked that an idea of how the Town Council could best help be sent in writing. James suggested that it would be useful to get the perspective of the partners of the St John's and Otford practices. Overall, the best support was a continued dialogue between the two organisations.

The Vice-Chair thanked James and Rebecca for attending the meeting and advised that the PCN had the Town Council's support in taking forward the issues raised.

645 - GRANT APPLICATION RECEIVED FROM WE ARE BEAMS

The Committee noted the Grants Budget for 2025/26 and considered an application received.

RESOLVED: That a grant be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) from the Local Organisation Grants budget, as follows:

Grant Ref No	Organisation Name	Purpose of award	Grant Application	Grant Awarded
	We are Beams	Hire costs for House in the Basement for one day a week for 36 weeks of the year for family advice clinics.	£1,440	£1,440

646 - S106 FOR INDOOR CRICKET

The Town Clerk advised that, despite numerous requests to Sevenoaks District Council for further details of what the £150,000 for Indoor Cricket facilities (subject of S106 Agreement) handed over to the Kent Community Cricket Trust had been spent on, there had been no satisfactory response to date with the District Council advising that they were awaiting a response from the Trust.

647 - MINUTES OF SPORTS STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Sports Strategy Working Group held on 12th February 2025.

648 - MINUTES OF ARTS & CULTURE WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Arts & Culture Strategy Working Group held on 17th February 2025

649 - MINUTES OF GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group held on 26th February 2025

650 - MINUTES OF YOUTH SERVICES WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: To receive and note the minutes of the Youth Services Working Group held on 12th March 2025

651 - CURRENT MATTERS

RESOLVED: To receive and note updates to Current Matters.

652 – KALC SURVEY, HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NHS SERVICES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Committee noted that as the Government outlines its 10-year Plan for the NHS, the Kent Association of Local Councils is undertaking a survey to understand Town and Parish Council's experiences with healthcare services and hopes for the future, to help them in advocating for the changes and improvements that matter most to communities.

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RESOLVED:

- 1) That Councillors forward comments to officers to be included in the response
- 2) That the Town Clerk be authorised to submit the response on behalf of the Town Council

653 - PRESS RELEASE

It was agreed that a Press Release be issued in respect of the discussions with the Primary Care Network and the Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (at the previous meeting), reporting that the Town Council is working to support the NHS locally to deliver better services.

There being no further business the Vice-Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed
Chair

Dated