

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on Wednesday 09 July 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

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

<https://www.youtube.com/live/WRePWBqEYBg?si=wuh4uy2Mzv4QWC7g>

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 20:03

present:

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|-------------------------------|---------|--|-----------|
| Cllr Chloe Gustard (Chair) | Present | Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy Leader) | Apologies |
| Cllr Libby Ancrum | Present | Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet | Present |
| Cllr Gareth Willis | Present | Cllr Tony Clayton (Mayor) | Apologies |

Co-opted Members:

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|---|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Sevenoaks Youth Council: Harry King Madeleine Politzer | Apologies Apologies | Sevenoaks District Council: Maxine Quinton | Apologies |
| Kent County Council: Vacant | | West Kent Communities: Richard Dowling | Apologies |
| Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust: Peter Robinson | Present | National Trust: Amy Sabine | Apologies |
| House in the Basement: Daren Mountain | Present | | |

In attendance: Georgina Jackson- Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson- Youth Committee Clerk.

188 - CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Noted that at the Annual Town Council meeting held on 12th May 2025, the following appointments were made:

Chair: Cllr Chloe Gustard

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Vice-Chair: Cllr Catherine Daniell

189 - TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was noted that at the Annual Council meeting held on the 12th of May 2025 the Terms of reference had not been fully updated.

RESOLVED: To amend the Terms of Reference at the Council meeting.

190 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and noted as above.

191 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation

192 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

193 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2025

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

194 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2025

It was noted that there were not many Youth Councillors present at this meeting, it was thought this might be due to the exam session. The Councillors suggested that the meetings should be arranged for after the April break.

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

195 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

195.1 - HiTB Manager's Update Report

Daren Mountain, Manager of House in the Basement, reported that they are still seeing large numbers of young people attending. It was noted that many of the Duke of Edinburgh young people have helped with the preparations at House in the Basement for the In Bloom Judging, which has included cleaning areas and planting plants.

Daren noted that there was a series of events happening over the summer holiday, including:

- Three Open Mic Nights- 11th July at House in the Basement, 14th August on the Vine Bandstand, 12th Sept at House in the Basement.
- A free BBQ facilitated by Perfect Cuisine for the 12th of July.
- Skate Park event at Greatness on the 25th of July.
- Broadstairs trip on the 20th of August.

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Daren reported that during the summer holidays, House in the Basement will be open from 2 pm on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. However, the SEN sessions will continue to be on a Tuesday from 5 pm to 8 pm throughout the summer holidays.

It was noted that a few members of the SEN club were reaching 18 and were unsure of the next steps regarding whether they could still attend House in the Basement. There was a discussion on how to provide SEN provision for those aged 18-25.

195.2 - Finance Cost Centre Reports

It was noted that House in the Basement had come in under budget at the end of the last financial year (2024/25) due to grants received.

The Finance Cost Centre Reports for House in the Basement Youth Café for March, April and May were received and noted.

196 - REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS

196.1 - SDC- Community Safety Team

Although Maxine Quinton was unable to attend this meeting, she had forwarded a report from the District Council Community Safety about events in Sevenoaks Town.

"I can report that there have not been any ASB hot spots noted since the last meeting involving young people.

There has been a reduction in nuisance motor bike activity in the littlewood location after a CPW was served on a resident there.

The Family Fun Days 2025 Leaflet is available now and is going out to all schools before the end of term.

The Family Fun Day for Sevenoaks will be on Monday 4th August 10.30 – 13.30 at Greatness Recreation Ground."

196.3 - SAYT

Peter reported that they are preparing to take 8 young people and 2 adults away on a Christian retreat in Stafford. They are currently working on their summer holiday plans for their Tuesday and Thursday groups. Peter noted that they are unsure what they will do during the winter, but did note that they are considering looking into the use of the Sevenoaks Town Council's electric bus when it becomes available.

197 - CURRENT & COMPLETED MATTERS REPORTS

It was agreed to note and accept the Current and Completed matters report.

198 - CHILDREN'S DESIGN A CHRISTMAS LIGHT 2025

The Youth Services Committee received a report detailing the continuation of the Children's Design a Christmas Light for a 4th year. It was noted that within minutes of

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the request for sponsorship going live to businesses, Klocker and Fosket agreed to part-fund the project, pledging £400 to sponsor the competition.

RESOLVED: For the competition to run for a 4th year, and for £400 from the Youth Services Outreach budget to be pledged towards the manufacture of the children's Christmas light.

199 - SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS

The Youth Services Committee received a report that Sevenoaks District Council have agreed to part-fund Skateboarding sessions from June 26th to July 17th. It was noted that these sessions have been well attended. The committee requested a report detailing the number of Young people who attended each of the sessions for the next meeting. It was noted that the Committee was interested to see if there was a difference in the number of Females and males since holding the sessions for girls in April 2024.

RESOLVED: To match fund SDC from the Youth Outreach Budget for £537.50,

To request a report at the next committee meeting on the number of young people who had attended the sessions.

200 - RAIL SAFETY PROJECT

The Youth Services Committee received a report outlining the number of schools that have taken part in a joint project between Sevenoaks Town Council, the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership and Rail Safe Friendly. The project is aimed at promoting rail safety to primary school young people. It was noted that five schools had completed the project with the Rail Safe friendly team, only one of these schools had received a silver award, with the others receiving Bronze. The Committee heard that Daren had delivered two sessions to primary schools at the Bat and Ball Station. These sessions were comprised of a short true or false historical quiz, a short video on rail safety, designing rail safety posters and a tour of the rail platform. It was noted that both of the schools that attended these sessions have received their gold award.

201 - UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

The Youth Services Committee noted there were a number of free events occurring over the summer holidays.

202 - SUMMER MUSIC ON THE BANDSTAND- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The Youth Services Committee received a report outlining the idea for adding children's activities in the form of a bouncy castle to supplement the summer Music on the Bandstand over the course of every Thursday. It was noted that in the meeting on the 12th of March, the Youth Services had recommended that this be put to businesses for sponsorship, but had been unsuccessful.

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It was noted that the Youth Services Committee felt unsure whether the addition of a bouncy castle might create a distraction from the Music on the Bandstand. Cllrs suggested that a trial run of one or two of the bouncy castle and Music sessions might be beneficial to see how much of an impact this would have on the event.

It was noted that to fully fund the bouncy castle for the 6 sessions across the summer would be 20% of the overall Youth Outreach Budget for the 2025/26 financial year. The Committee also noted that they have not yet received Grant Applications from this financial year and would limit the amount of support they may be able to give to the wider community.

RESOLVED: To refuse funding for this on the grounds that it would limit the amount of funds available for grants to come in the new financial year.

To revisit this next year for the Music on the Bandstand events, looking at holding one or two sessions to gauge the overall impact of the events.

203 - PRESS RELEASE

To publish a press release highlighting all the free events for young people over the summer holiday, along with the funding for the Skateboarding Sessions and the Children's Design a Christmas Light Competition.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the Meeting

Signed

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Dated

Chair