

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on Wednesday 10 September 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/watch?v=rr0MSOzd8Aw&t=2796s>

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 20:10

Present:

Committee Members:

Cllr Chloe Gustard (Chair)	Present (Arrived at 19:08)	Cllr Catherine Daniell (Vice-Chair, Deputy Leader)	Present (Left at 19:27)
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Apologies	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Gareth Willis	Present	Cllr Tony Clayton (Mayor)	Present

Co-opted Members:

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

In attendance: Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Youth Committee Clerk.

324 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Received and accepted as noted above

325 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS: There were no requests for dispensations.

326 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of Interest.

327 - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Youth Services Committee received the amended terms of reference that were amended by Council on the 21st July 2025.

RESOLVED: To adopt the amended terms of reference for the Youth Services Committee.

328 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY

It was noted that the date on the top of the minutes was incorrect, as it was dated the 7th of May and needed to be corrected.

RESOLVED: For the amended minutes to be agreed and signed at the next meeting of the Youth Services Committee on Wednesday, 19th of November.

329 - MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY

It was noted that the date on the top of the minutes was incorrect, as it was dated the 7th of May and needed to be corrected.

RESOLVED: For the amended minutes to be agreed and signed at the next meeting of the Youth Services Committee on Wednesday, 19th of November.

330 - GRANT REPORTS

The Committee received and noted that the balance of the 2025/26 Youth Outreach budget was £7,262

RESOLVED: That grant requests be awarded under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011 Sections 1-8 refers) as follows:

Grant Ref No	Organisation Name & Charity Reg	Purpose of award	Grant Application	Grant approved
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts, Young Musician of the Year	Towards the cost of hiring a venue that has a piano of competition standard.	£650	£650
Total awarded				£650

331 - SUMMER EVENTS REPORT 2025

The Youth Services Committee noted there had been a large number of events over the summer and that the feedback around the Bouncy Castle for the Thursday Bandstand performances had been mixed.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Summer Events Report.

332 - HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HiTB) YOUTH CAFE

332.1 - HiTB Manager's Update Report

The Youth Services Committee received the House in the Basement Managers' report.

It was noted that over the Summer holidays, they had also held an Open Mic Night at the Vine Gardens as well as a Photography workshop. (Wednesday, 27th of August) at the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. It was also reported that over 35 young people

attended the House in the Basement Summer trip to Broadstairs. Despite this, Daren reported that August had been one of the quieter months, seeing fewer young people over the course of the month, noting that businesses in the town had said that they saw fewer people over August.

Daren also noted that House in the Basement held a Celebration for Paula to celebrate 40 years of Youth Work, with the mayor attending to present Paula with a certificate and a gift. It was also noted that two new volunteers have started at House in the Basement, one of whom was a former SEN young person from House in the Basement.

Daren reported that over the Summer holidays, there had not been a high uptake of the food vouchers, despite a large interest from schools, food banks, youth Groups, Housing authorities, Sevenoaks District Council and other groups, all promoting the project to their contacts, and over 300 vouchers had been given out to these groups. Only a small handful of vouchers were redeemed at House in the Basement. It was noted that Councillors wondered if the money could be used in another way to ensure the food got to the intended people. It was noted that this could be due to the stigma around asking for help, or possibly could be linked to the fewer young people attending.

RESOLVED: for the Free meal deal for Children facing food poverty to continue over the October Half Term to see if there is any further uptake. Officers to investigate any other ways in which the money can be used to provide food for Children, should there be a lack of uptake.

332.2 - Finance Cost Centre Reports

It was noted that the House in the Basement year-to-date actual costs were higher than the predicted costs.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the June and July cost centre reports.

333 - REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED PARTNERS

333.1 - West Kent Communities

Richard reported that this would be his last Youth Services Committee meeting, during which the Councillors all thanked him for his years of service and help with Youth Work across the town. It was noted that while West Kent will not be doing any youth work, they are still happy to appear at events and run stalls. It was noted that it was a great loss with the Young Adventures club, which was run by West Kent for 8–12-year-olds, had ended after 25 years. He reported that West Kent had been able to help many of the young people get into other clubs such as Cubs and Brownies, and with some donations, they were able to help pay for uniforms for those who needed them.

The Councillors asked if Richard could comment on whether he felt there was a need for more Youth Work in the Northern Ward. It was noted that the age gap from 8-12 that was catered to through young adventurers would become a need in the near future.

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RESOLVED: 1) For a future agenda item to explore the creation of an evidence-based report on the need for Youth services report and for a Survey on the types of clubs and youth services that are used by young people and the impact they have on the young people in Sevenoaks to be created by the Youth Council.

2) Summary of other youth Services in other districts such as Tonbridge, Tonbridge Wells and Maidstone.

3) Audit of what sports clubs provide for low-income families and of the number of people who use the Tennis Courts/ MUGA at Bat and Ball centre, for this to be brought to the Community Assets Committee.

334 - PRESS RELEASE

- 1) For a press release to be issued thanking Richard for all of his hard work over 4 years of being on the Youth Services Committee.
- 2) For a press release to be issued on the Successful Grant Applications.
- 3) For a press release to be issued on all of the events that the Town Council has put on over the Summer Holidays.

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

Signed Dated

Chair