

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26th September 2022 Council Chambers, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

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

https://youtu.be/0pQf_IXaWE

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Rachel Parry, Mayor	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea, Deputy Mayor (In the Chair)	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Present	Cllr Keith Bonin	Present
Cllr Nicholas Busvine	Present	Cllr Sue Camp	Apologies
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present	Cllr Tony Clayton	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Apologies	Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Present
Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present
Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent	Cllr Richard Parry	Remote attendance
Cllr Robert Piper	Apologies	Cllr Simon Raikes	Present

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer (Remote attendance) and Senior Committee Clerk

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

At the request of the Deputy Mayor, a one-minute silence was observed to pay respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022

Representations received from Members of the Public:

1. Richard Hix, Trustee of Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, spoke in support of the proposal that the Council considers obtaining Town of Sanctuary status, as set out at Agenda Item 6. He commented on the value of the City of Sanctuary movement in encouraging communities to welcome people in need and outlined the number of families in Sevenoaks being supported by Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees.
2. Cllr Richard Streatfeild, Kent County Councillor for Sevenoaks, advised that the County Council meeting had been postponed to 20th October following the period of mourning for HM The Queen.

He advised that the main issue for the County Council had been the withdrawal of bus routes and services and the significant impact this had during the back-to-school period. Another key matter for Sevenoaks Town was the 20mph consultation which would start on 30th September: it was noted that arrangements had been made for this to be considered at meetings of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

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303. Apologies for Absence

Councillors noted the apologies submitted as shown above. Best wishes were sent to the Mayor for a speedy recovery.

304. Requests for Dispensations

304.1 None received in respect of agenda items at this meeting.

304.2 Dispensation as Dual Hatted Councillor

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Sevenoaks Town Council's Standing Order 13 and under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the following Town Councillors have requested and been granted a Dispensation as a dual hatted Councillor to allow them to discuss and vote on matters where the only reason they would otherwise be prevented from taking part in discussion and voting is due to either:

- their membership of Sevenoaks District Council i.e. it does not permit Councillors to take part in discussion and voting automatically if they have a declaration of pecuniary interest unrelated to their membership of Sevenoaks District Council;

Councillor Bonin
Councillor Canet
Councillor Clayton
Councillor Eyre
Councillor Hogarth
Councillor Raikes

- their role as a Trustee of the Stag Community Arts Centre i.e. it does not permit Councillors to take part in discussion and voting automatically if they have a declaration of pecuniary interest unrelated to their membership of the Stag Community Arts Centre Board of Trustees:

Councillor Ancrum
Councillor Busvine
Councillor Camp
Councillor Shea
Councillor Bonin
Councillor Granville-Baxter
Councillor Mrs Parry
Councillor Hogarth
Councillor Raikes
Councillor Canet
Councillor Clayton
Councillor Parry
Councillor Piper

These dispensations will be valid until the next Town Council Election in May 2023.

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305. Declarations of Interest: none received.

306. Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 18th July 2022
RESOLVED: to accept and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 18th July 2022 as a true record.

307. Minutes of Committees
Council was asked to consider and adopt the Minutes of Committees as follows.

307.1 Planning Committee
RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 11th July, 25th July, 8th August, 22nd August and 5th September 2022 as true records.

307.2 Finance & General Purposes Committee
RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 18th July 2022 as a true record.

307.3 Youth Services Committee
RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Youth Services Committee held on 7th September as a true record.

308 Town of Sanctuary
Consideration was given to the proposal, submitted by Cllr Ancrum, that the Town Council consider obtaining "Town of Sanctuary" status for Sevenoaks.

It was noted that much of the criteria was already happening by a variety of organisations, including the Town Council, and the process would provide recognition and publicity to all the work that was being done to assist refugees in Sevenoaks.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council initiate the setting up of a Working Group, inviting persons interested to be involved, to undertake the process for obtaining Town of Sanctuary status.

309. Mayor's Engagements
RESOLVED: To note and accept the reports relating to Mayoral activities:
a) the functions attended by the Mayor or her representative during August to 4th September 2022
b) the forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2022/23

310. Press Release
RESOLVED: To issue a press release regarding the setting up of a Working Group to undertake the process for obtaining Town of Sanctuary status.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed
Mayor

Dated