

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14th October 2024
In the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available to view on YouTube until approved by Council:
<https://youtube.com/live/EVjURICYtT0?feature=share>

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.14 p.m.

Cllr Libby Ancrum, Mayor	Present		Cllr Sally Layne	Present
Cllr Sue Camp	Present		Cllr Lise Michaelides	Apologies
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present		Cllr Lionel O'Hara	Apologies
Cllr Tony Clayton, Deputy Mayor (In the Chair)	Present		Cllr David Skinner OBE	Present
Cllr Catherine Daniell, Deputy Leader	Present		Cllr Claire Shea	Apologies
Cllr Dr Peter Dixon	Present		Cllr Nick Varley	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville	Present		Cllr Gareth Willis	Present
Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present		Cllr Nigel Wightman, Leader	Present

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer, and Senior Committee Clerk.

Members of Public in Attendance: 0

Public Questions: None

346 Apologies for Absence: as shown above.

347 Requests for Dispensations: none received.

348 Declarations of Interest: none received.

349 Longspring Woods: His Majesty The King Sends Congratulations for Saving Ancient Woodlands for the Sevenoaks Community

The Town Council was pleased to note that, following the successful campaign and donations from local residents of more than £100,000 in 23 days, the recent purchase of Longspring Woods had received a surprise message of congratulations from His Majesty King Charles III:

"His Majesty was deeply touched to hear of the community effort involved in preserving this ancient woodland for public use and hopes that you will be so kind as to convey The King's warmest thanks and good wishes to everyone who was part of this important initiative.

His Majesty, trusts that you, the Town Councillors, and residents of Sevenoaks, will enjoy a most memorable celebration."

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- 350 Minutes of the Meeting of Sevenoaks Town Council held on 2nd September 2024**
RESOLVED: to accept and sign the minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Council meeting held on 2nd September 2024 as a true record.

351 Minutes of Committees

351.1 Planning & Environment Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Environment Committee held on 9th September, 23rd September and 7th October 2024 as true records.

351.2 Finance & Delivery Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Delivery Committee held on 2nd September 2024 as a true record.

351.3 Community & Wellbeing Committee

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Wellbeing Committee held on 16th September 2024 as a true record

352 Freedom of Information Request

RESOLVED: To note the following information request received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Date Received	Date Responded	From	Topic	STC Hours to respond
20/08/2024	04/09/2024	RFO/ Town Team Facilitator	Business Improvement District	45 Minutes

353 Councillor Reports: Town Council Representatives on External Organisations

The following update was noted:

Friends of Rheinbach

Cllr Dr Peter Dixon reported that friends of Rheinbach were working on developing events in between the reciprocal exchange visits, including a possible football camp next summer for 10 to 13-year-old boys and girls from Rheinbach and a talk from a former British Ambassador to Germany.

Cllr Clayton advised of an expression of interest in a town twinning from a town in Italy: the first step would be to establish whether there was a group in the Town that would be interested in developing this.

Sevenoaks District Arts Council (SDAC)

Cllr Sally Layne advised that she had attended the SDAC Annual General Meeting on 25th September 2024. Consideration was being given to the possibility of a local arts funding lottery, to be explored further.

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354 Mayor's Engagements

Councillors received and noted the reports of Mayoral Activities.

The Mayor drew attention to the In Bloom Certificates displayed at the meeting and the Town Council's success in achieving the following awards:

Town Centre entry	Gold
The Vine entry	Gold & Best in Class & Park of the Year
Upper High Street Gardens	Gold
House in the Basement (It's Your Neighbourhood entry)	Thriving

The Mayor had attended the apple pressing ceremony at the Quaker's Hall Allotments and had been gifted a bottle of apple juice which she brought along to share at the meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and other Councillors who had substituted for her at events whilst she was away.

RESOLVED: To note and accept the reports relating to Mayoral activities:

- a) functions attended by the Mayor or her representative up to 6th October 2024
- b) forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2024-25
- c) to note that the following dates marked provisional in the report had now been confirmed:

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 Mayor's End of Term Reception

Wednesday 7th May 2025 Luncheon at Chevening House

355 Press Release: None.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting.

Signed
Mayor

Dated