

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee Held on 23rd March 2022

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Rachel Parry, Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)	Present		Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Remote Attendance
Cllr Nick Busvine	Apologies		Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Apologies
Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, Mayor (ex officio)	Present		Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Absent
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Present		Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Co-opted Members:				
Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present		Victoria Walters, Kent County Council	Apologies
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Present		Caroline Berry, SAYT	Present

In attendance: Cllr Richard Parry, Senior Committee Clerk and Manager of House in the Basement Youth Café.

Representations received from Members of the Public: none.

Cllr Edward Waite

A one minute's silence was held at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Cllr Edward Waite, Chairman of the Committee

601. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above, and from the Town Clerk.

602. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

603. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

604. Notes of Advisory Meeting of Youth Services Committee held on 12th January 2022

In relation to Minute 459 (NALC Young People Case Studies), Cllr Parry advised that he had raised the matter for consideration at the KALC meeting on 30th April 2022.

RESOLVED: To receive and sign the Notes of the Advisory Meeting of the Youth Services Committee held via Zoom on 12th January 2022 as a true record.

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605. House in the Basement Youth Café

605.1 Update Report

Daren Mountain, Manager of the House in the Basement Youth Cafe (HitB), presented his report. He reported that there had been a slight increase in numbers attending, and he felt confidence was growing.

Advertising had stepped up using Instagram, Facebook and posters. More detached work was planned but it was proving difficult getting into schools due to their ongoing concerns about Covid. It was hoped to be able to do this in the near future, in partnership with West Kent Housing.

A trip to Bewl Water had taken place during half term, in partnership with West Kent Housing.

RESOLVED: That the update report be received and noted.

605.2 Finance Report to 31st January 2022

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café to 31st January 2022 be noted.

606. Sevenoaks Youth Council

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 9th February 2022.

607. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

It was noted that Victoria Walters had joined the Committee as Co-opted Member for KCC, although she had been unable to attend this meeting. Victoria had forwarded some information about activities at Swanley Youth Hub. Councillors requested that she be asked for an update on recent and planned detached work or other activities in Sevenoaks Town.

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

Caroline Berry advised that SAYT would shortly be interviewing three applicants for the second youth worker post.

She reported that the young women who attended the International Women's Day lunch event hosted by the Mayor had thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Committee congratulated SAYT on their nomination for Youth Group of the Year at the recent Sevenoaks District Council Community and Volunteer Awards.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Maxine Quinton reported that Sevenoaks Town was quiet at the moment. There were still some reports of activity at the Town Car Park but letters had been sent out and some young people spoken to: they had not returned since.

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Regular PCSO patrols took place at the car parks and the Hollybush and Environmental parks. Cllr Canet reported an incident of young people taking supermarket trolleys to the Vine: Maxine undertook to ask the PCSOs to visit the area.

She advised that there was a summer plan in place should anti-social behaviour occur once the lighter evenings and better weather returned.

Maxine commented that the District Council's Community and Volunteer Awards event had taken place on 9th March, celebrating volunteers and their activities. The next events were;

- The Big Sing to be held at The Stag on 7th June, bringing together 10 local choirs as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Easter & Summer Family Fun Days

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard Dowling advised that with the lighter evenings detached work would increase. The Young Adventurers Group (8 to 12 years), which met at Hope Church, was going very well with 20 young people attending regularly, and a waiting list. It was noted that that attendance was by referral. Richard commented that if volunteer support could be found it would be possible to make the group bigger.

He advised that once young people were over 12 he directed them to HitB but found that the need to travel into town discouraged them. He wondered whether there could be an opportunity for a once-a-week youth club in the Bat & Ball area? He would be interested in working in partnership to provide this, perhaps a collaboration with HitB? The Committee suggested that Richard and Daren meet with the Town Clerk to consider this matter.

The Committee congratulated West Kent Housing Association on their nomination at the recent Sevenoaks District Council Community and Volunteer Awards.

608. Update on Young Mentor Project

608.1 Flow Chart

The Committee noted the flow chart provided showing the full offering of the Young People Mentor Project. Daren Mountain advised that a cohort of 20 mentors had been established and undertaken a first training session.

608.2 Youth Survey

The Committee received and noted the summary responses to the Youth Survey completed to date. Daren advised that the requirement to obtain funding for the Skate Park event had been 25: 41 surveys had been received so far and more were being sought. Richard suggested sharing it with the Young Adventurers Group.

The Committee noted that the responses had on the whole been more positive than anticipated.

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608.3 Skate Park Fun Day

The Committee noted details of the Skate Park event being held on Wednesday 6th April 11.00 – 16.00 at Greatness Recreation Ground. The event included demonstrations from professional skateboarders and BMX riders, together with workshops and competitions. A community artist would be inviting design ideas for a mural for the Skate Park.

609. Easter/Summer Children's Activities

Details of events planned for the Easter and Summer holidays were noted, these included: Family Fun activities hosted at Vine Gardens (funded by Kent County Council's Reconnect project); Family Fun Days hosted at Bat & Ball Centre and Greatness Recreation Ground (funded by Sevenoaks District Council); an Easter Egg hunt; and summer outdoor theatre shows.

610. Jubilee Projects for Young People

The Committee noted details of the literary competition and crown designs for banners being held as part of the celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Further promotion of the activities would take place.

611. Press Release

There were no press releases arising from this meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated