

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Services Committee

Held on 22nd March 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, TN13 3QG

Livestreamed and available on YouTube until Minutes are accepted by Town Council Meeting:

(<https://youtube.com/live/yOSxyX4d97A>)

Meeting Started: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, Chairman	Present	Cllr Libby Ancrum	Present
Cllr Richard Parry, Vice-Chairman	Apologies	Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Present
Cllr Nick Busvine	Present	Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Apologies
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea	Present
Cllr Rachel Parry, Mayor (ex- officio)	Apologies		

Co-opted Members:

Richard Dowling, West Kent Communities	Present	Kent County Council	
Maxine Quinton, Sevenoaks District Council	Present	Caroline Berry, SAYT Peter Robinson, SAYT	Present Present
Amy Sabine, Volunteering & Community Officer, National Trust	Present		

Substitute	For
Cllr Simon Raikes	Present Cllr Richard Parry

In attendance: Linda Larter, Town Clerk, Daren Mountain, HiTB Youth Café Manager, Ieuan Chandler-Wilson, Youth Committee Clerk.

Representations received from Members of the Public: none.

The Chairman recognised the leaving of Caroline Berry from SAYT, noting that she had played an instrumental role in helping SAYT and young people in Sevenoaks, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. The Committee welcomed Peter Robinson in his new role.

662. Apologies for Absence

Received as noted above.

663. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

664. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

665. Minutes of Youth Services Committee held on 18th January 2023

RESOLVED: To receive and accept minutes as a true record.

666. House in the Basement Youth Café

666.1 Update Report

The Committee received the report from Daren Mountain, the Manager of House in the Basement.

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Daren stated that numbers of young people attending House in the Basement had increased. It was also noted they had been seeing over 30 young people on a Saturday.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

666.2 Finance Report January to February 2023

RESOLVED: That the Finance Cost Centre report for the House in the Basement Youth Café be noted.

667. Sevenoaks Youth Council

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 18th January 2023.

668. Reports from Co-opted Partners

Noted following reports from Co-opted Partners:

(i) Kent County Council (KCC)

It was noted that Victoria Walters had left the authority and Kent County Council had yet to appoint someone permanent to the role.

(ii) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

The Committee heard from Caroline Berry that SAYT had attended the Mayor's Quiz night and had 2 tables at the event, she explained that they had a very enjoyable evening.

Caroline also noted that in April, SAYT would be having a trip for young people to go to the seaside. Trinity school had very kindly offered their minibus to help with transport.

(iii) Sevenoaks District Council, Community Safety

Maxine Quinton reported that the main problem facing Sevenoaks at the moment was the anti-social behaviour at The Vine.

Maxine also noted that the District Council had held the "Making it Happen" Community and Volunteering Awards with the Youth Group of the Year award going to the Sevenoaks District Youth Mentoring Project. The Committee congratulated Daren on his role in the Youth Mentoring Project and the recent community award for this.

(iv) West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

Richard Dowling reported that during their detached work WKYS had engagements with over 261 young people around The Vine and were talking about the choices that the young people made around alcohol and drugs as well as keeping safe. Many of the young people that they spoke to felt that there would be no repercussions from what was happening at The Vine. It was also noted that last Saturday they saw around 60 young people congregating at Greatness Recreation Ground.

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Richard also reported that the Young Adventurers was doing well, with hot meals now being supplied every two weeks and the charges to attend having been dropped.

Richard also informed the Committee that from the 31st of March 2024 Kent County Council would be removing funding to youth provisions across the districts which would have a knock on effect on the Young Adventurers, Apprenticeship Programs and the detached work that West Kent offer for young people in the district.

(v) National Trust

Amy Sabine reported that they had attended a Reverse Recruitment event at Rowhill school where young people from the school and other local schools asked questions to companies in an interview setting, which helped young people to develop interview skills for later life. This event was set up in partnership with Kent County Council, the Education People, Kent and Medway Careers Hub and The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Amy also reported that the Duke of Edinburgh programme for young people had started at Knole, with young people engaging in a range of roles from deer ranging to house steward, with plans to develop this further. It was also noted that they had six young people express interest in work experience, with another six spaces available.

669. HiTB Youth Café 10 Year Celebration

The Committee received a booklet for the 10-year celebration for the House in the Basement that would be taking place on the 1st of April 2023.

The Committee noted that the continuation of House in the Basement was testament to the dedication of Linda Larter, Daren Mountain and all of the House in the Basement Staff, both present and past, who have been supporting young people over the last ten years.

670. Anti-Social Behavior at Sevenoaks Vine

The Committee noted that there had been an increase of young people gathering in crowds on The Vine, mainly on a Friday evening from 6pm, that were causing Anti-Social Behavior and criminal damage to the area, including the smashing of glass bottles. It was noted that these gatherings on The Vine have been set up on social media as a “cool” thing and had at times seen crowds of around 400 young people, with some coming as far as Edenbridge. It was noted that Southeastern Railway was aware of this and there had been an increased presence from the British Transport Police.

The Committee noted that in recent weeks the police had sent a message to schools as well as social media asking parents to be aware of these gatherings and asking “Do you know where your young person is?”. It was also noted that the police had been given a dispersal order to be able to move on large groups that gather over a period of 48 hours. It was noted that a Public Spaces Protection Order could be put

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in place as a low key deterrent under the Anti-Social Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014, section 59, which would give the police the powers they would need to intervene in activities carried out on a public space that would be detrimental to the quality of life to those who live locally and use the space. An example of this had been distributed.

RESOLVED: That the issuing of the Public Spaces Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Section 59 should proceed for the Sevenoaks District Council to move forward to the consultation period.

671. Press Release

RESOLVED: There were no press releases arising from this meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed
Chairman

Dated