

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL
YOUTH SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE
HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2017
SEVENOAKS COMMUNITY CENTRE TN14 5DN**

Present:

Cllr N J L Busvine OBE (Chairman), Cllr J M Canet, Cllr A Eyre, Cllr Mrs R E Parry (Vice Chairman), Cllr R J Parry, Cllr S G Raikes, Cllr E Waite *[arrived 7:16pm]* and Cllr Mrs P C Walshe,

Also in Attendance:

Y Cllr Daniel Izu (Youth Council Chairman)
Y Cllr Elise van den Hoek
Mrs Caroline Berry (SAYT)
Mr Shane Mochrie Cox (KCC)

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr E Parson
Cllr R L Piper
Y Cllr Ana Lawther
Y Cllr James "The Don" Armitage
Y Cllr Katie Willis
Y Cllr Phoebe Crichtlow
Ms Kelly Webb (SDC)
Ms Kate Craib (WKC)

There were no members of the public present.

400 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: to receive and note apologies received from Cllr E Parson, Cllr R L Piper, Ms Kelly Webb and Ms Kate Craib.

401 Request for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

402 Declaration of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

403 Minutes

i) Youth Services Sub Committee held on 14th December 2016

RESOLVED: to receive, note and sign the Minutes as a true record.

ii) Youth Council held on 14th December 2016

RESOLVED: to receive, note and sign the Minutes as a true record.

NOTED that plans be in place for the Open Mic Night to take place on 24th February 2017. Agreed at the previous meeting of Youth Council that Youth Councillors would mention at school, attend the event together with their friends. Agreed that further discussion take place on Monday 30th January 2017 whilst the Youth Council travels via coach to Westminster.

404 HOUSE in the Basement Youth Café [HiTB]

i) HiTB report for January 2017

The Youth Café remained open as much as possible over the Christmas and New Year period. Simon and Cali had now left. January opening hours were covered with Daren and a new casual member of staff. March sees the possibility of a student requiring 100 hours of community work experience. Any changes to opening hours to be posted on Facebook.

20 young people attended the Pantomime courtesy of the Stag. A Holiday Club is being looked at over the Easter holidays.

Youth Councillors had received an overwhelming request, following their survey undertaken at Christmas Lights Switch on Event, for Open Mic nights to be re-instated at HiTB. This event would be trialled on the last Friday of the month with effect from 24th February 2017.

The Mayor of Sevenoaks presented young people at HiTB with a certificate of excellence for vegetables grown at HiTB from the South East in Bloom competition.

HiTB thankfully continues to benefit from Tesco's Fare Share Scheme.

Fat Face also named HiTB again for their Black Friday event and a donation was expected soon.

- ii) Geographical data for December 2016
RESOLVED: the report be received and noted.

- iii) General statistics and income for December 2017.
RESOLVED: the report be received and noted.

- iv) Finance Report to 30th October 2016
RESOLVED: the report be received and noted.
NOTED: there is a shortfall in funding of £25,000 for the year 2017/2018 for the HiTB to run as it currently does on six days a week. Discussions with outside organisations are in hand. HiTB is empty during the day. Any income derived from hiring out of the premises would offset the costs of opening as a Youth Café in the evenings.

AGREED that

- personal, face to face discussions take place within the local community for sponsorship
- Councillors to discuss personally with their contacts
- The Town Council's websites have hiring details of the HiTB, which has full accessibility
- Social media be used to promote the hire of the HiTB

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council would be willing to make adaptations to the venue if required for confirmed hirers. The Mayor confirmed that the Stag includes the HiTB as a facility to hire.

405. Reports from Co-Opted Partners

- i) SAYT
Caroline Berry advised that SAYT hopes to employ an additional member of staff by the end of February.
- ii) Community Safety Team
The representative was not present but advised that they will assist the Town Council with a Play Day taking place on 16th August 2017.
- iii) Kent County Council
Shane Mochrie-Cox advised that hiring of the Sevenoaks Community Centre is still an option and will be resumed once staffing issues have been addressed.

Shane advised that he is Lead Officer at KCC for Youth Participation. There are many varying Youth Services undertaken by KCC. Case Work and Duke of Edinburgh Awards are some examples as well as the Youth Advisory Group and Youth Forum chaired by Cllr R J Parry.

The Committee Clerk requested that the Duke of Edinburgh Award incorporate the 8 week Volunteer programme at HiTB, which Shane would consider.

The Committee Clerk invited Shane and the newly appointed Kent County Youth Councillor [KCCY Cllr] attending Knole Academy to attend Westminster visit on Monday 30th January 2017. The Town Clerk ask that the new KCCY Cllr be approached to become a Sevenoaks town Youth Councillor.

RESOLVED: to further discuss on the coach to Westminster on Monday 30th January 2017.

iv) West Kent Communities

Kate Craib had been unable to stay to attend the meeting.

It was noted that West Kent Communities had agreed to provide a grant of £2,300 for the continuation of the Tuesday Club for young people with special needs. Also, would advise of proposed hire of facility for the next year by the end of January 2017.

Members of the Sub Committee wished West Kent Communities [WKC] well in its new model of delivering youth work in the Sevenoaks District and welcomed the suggestions for supporting the Youth Council in its identified projects for 2017.

They did however request that the Minutes reflect their serious concerns about the following aspects of the provision:

- i) The new model did not appear to enable the provision for young people to benefit from regular and continuous contact with youth workers enabling trust, support and confidences to naturally develop and the benefits that accrue from this.
- ii) Young people will no longer be able to access support on a variety of needs on a regular basis.
- iii) The proposals to create a second 'Youth Forum' in Sevenoaks when the current Sevenoaks Youth Council is considered representative of young people in the town as has previously been demonstrated both in the activities it has undertaken (including the provision of the House Youth Café) and its engagement with other young people e.g. Surveying young people at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

406. Press Releases

RESOLVED: Hiring of the HiTB be worthy of a press release.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.52 p.m.

Signed

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Chairman

Dated

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